

There was a more or less complete selection of legal maxims and measured judgments. "Unwritten Law," however, is strictly that of which no origin can be traced, as opposed to "Statute Law" of which we know the beginning and the end. Now China has a vast mass of such law, some of it extremely good and most of it (in theory) admirably suited to Chinese character and requirements. In theory only, be it remembered, for a very superficial acquaintance with Chinese proverbial law is sufficient to show that between the excellence of a law and the excellence of its administration there is a gulf as wide as that between heaven and earth. It is plain, therefore, that there is a double task before the Chinese is this connection. First they must convert their judges to justice, and secondly they must bring their heterogeneous mass of legal tradition to a modern code, and then collate it with an equally vast mass of western law, for that is what they have set out to do. How many of them have ever put foot within the law library of an up-to-date barrister or solicitor? How many of them know anything at all of the many specialists that are there in connection with western law? And have any of them considered how many Chinese there are fitted for such a task as the compilation of such a code? The hand of the law can be deciphered there. And read the ridiculous similes—"If we turn to educational matters, the same difficulty confronts us. It is hardly too much to say that there is not a Chinaman alive who is competent to draw up a national scheme of education from the kindergartens to the university. There are many Chinese who have graduated from colleges and universities in England, America, and elsewhere, but that does not make them authorities on education any more, than travelling by sea makes the captain of a ship a competent naval architect." Anybody can see the absurdity of such a remark. Fortunately, the Chinese themselves are not obsessed by the idea of their own importance. Indeed the Chinese can see things clearly. Surely, the very fact that they send students at the Government expense to Europe and America is proof positive that their alleged decadence is a myth. Another thing: "It is probably unknown to China the extent to which the European nations have drawn upon each other for help in this respect. American development has been very largely built on the ability of the men sent from England. At this moment there are many English professors in her colleges. Now she is returning the benefit in a hundred different ways. The same is true of the relationship of England with other lands. We learnt silk work from France, and wool from Holland. In return we taught them railway construction and so on. Hundreds of other instances might be adduced. If then China were to call in skilled assistance from the outside she might then make her start on the right lines, and everything depends on that. Japan did so. Without expert help we are convinced that China's efforts must end in failure, and then will be proved the truth of the prophecies of her enemies, that she is incapable of progress and must be treated accordingly." And this is the nation that is supposed to be decadent. Our only wonder is that this Mercury should have given publicity to such statements founded on sand and built on hypothesis. China was never more virile or vigorous than she is at the present time and to paraphrase an old saying, China will be China when nations (of the West) peter out.

Telegrams.

HONGKONG TELEGRAPH SERVICE.

RUSSIA AND CHINA
BRITISH AND AMERICAN
MEDIATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 7th April. The British and American Ministers in Peking are trying to bring about an amicable settlement (between the Russian authorities and Chinese) of the dispute (arising from the levying of municipal taxation) in Harbin.

H.E. TANG SHAO-YI.
HONoured BY THE KAISER.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 7th April. H.E. Tang Shao-yi, in a telegraphic message, reports that a German Order has been conferred upon him by H. I. M. the Kaiser. Imperial sanction has been granted the Special Envoy to wear the insignia of the Order.

JAPAN AND CHINA.
THE MANCHURIAN DIFFERENCES.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 7th April. The Grand Council in a representation has urged the Japanese Government to withdraw the guards from the Fukumori Railway. The Japanese Consul at Fengtien has declined to comply with the Chinese representation.

FOREIGN NEGOTIATIONS.

REPORTS TO BE PUBLISHED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 12th April. A mass meeting of the Chinese was held yesterday at Ming Lou (Hall) to oppose the extension of the foreign settlement in Shanghai. The negotiations with the Foreign

Powers, unless of a confidential character, will be published for the information of the people.

RAILWAY DISBURSEMENTS
TO BE MADE IN DOLLARS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 8th April. The Ministries of Finance and of Posts and Communications have come to an arrangement that all receipts and payments in connection with railways will be made in dollars.

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.
HEAVY LOSS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 8th April. The losses of the Postal Department for last year are estimated at over 100,000 (7 taels).

NAVAL REORGANISATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 8th April. The Ministry of Finance has set aside Tls. 2,700,000 from the opium revenue towards the naval reorganisation scheme.

NA TUNG.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 8th April. The Prince Regent has directed Luk Chiu-Lum to call on Na Tung and inquire after his health, and at the same time to convey him a message that he is expected to resume his duties after the period of one hundred days from the death of his mother has expired.

VICEROY OF YUNNAN.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 8th April. H.E. Lei King-hei, Viceroy designate of Yunnan and Kweichow, is awaiting the arrival of Sik Liang at Peking (to-day) before having a farewell audience of the Prince Regent upon starting for his new post.

THE PRATAS ISLAND.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 9th April. A valuable possession.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 9th April. The Prince Regent has given instructions to the Waiwupu to take steps to abolish likin and extra-territorial rights.

PLAGUE IN PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 18th April. There is a severe outbreak of plague in Peking.

Several deaths have occurred in Luk Chiu-Lum's residence.

MINISTER TO BERLIN.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 18th April. The Chinese Minister to Berlin has reported his arrival at the German capital on the 12th inst.

SHOWING THE FLAG.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 9th April. Mr. Ijuin, the Japanese Minister in Peking, has asked Chang Chih-tung to engage Japanese engineers for the Hankow-Ichang Railway.

IMPERIAL SANCTION HAS BEEN GRANTED THE SPECIAL ENVOY TO WEAR THE INSIGNIA OF THE ORDER.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

JAPAN AND CHINA.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 9th April. The President of the Waiwupu has memorialized in person that, in view of the advent of the next Hague Conference, special officials should be appointed with instructions to prepare the various matters for discussion at the conference.

SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT
EXTENSION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 12th April. A mass meeting of the Chinese was held yesterday at Ming Lou (Hall) to oppose the extension of the foreign settlement in Shanghai. The Waiwupu has decided that the negotiations with the Foreign

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NAVAL REORGANISATION.

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Peking, 8th April. The British Minister in Peking has telegraphed to the Foreign Office in London urging the British Government to demand an explanation from the German Government regarding the proposed loan for the Canton-Hankow Railway and to hold China responsible for the breach of the Chekiang Agreement.

IMPERIAL PALACE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 12th April. The various Foreign Ministers in Peking have again pressed their claim for an extension of the foreign settlement in Shanghai.

FRESH APPLICATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 12th April. The Central Government is just as firm as ever in opposing it.

CHINA MERCHANTS S. N. CO.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

CONTEMPLATED OFFICIAL CONTROL.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April. As soon as Viceroy Yung Shih-chang arrives in Peking, it is proposed by the Ministry of Posts and Communications to arrange for taking over the management of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co.

WEN TSUNG-YAO.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April. Wen Tsung-yao (formerly foreign secretary to the Viceroy at Canton, now Junib Amban in Tibet), has reported his arrival in Tibet.

He recommends that H.E. Chih-lung, Senior Amban, should be urged to proceed to Lhassa.

SIK LIANG.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 18th April. The Prince Regent has given instructions to the Waiwupu to take steps to abolish likin and extra-territorial rights.

PLAGUE IN PEKING.

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ARRIVAL OF CHINA'S REPRESENTATIVE.

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EUNUCHS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 18th April. The Prince Regent is of opinion that the decision for the abolition of the eunuch system must rest with the instructions lest the friendly feelings of the Power might be offended.

YUNNAN-VICEROYALTY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 12th April. The Waiwupu has decided that the negotiations with the Foreign

ASSAULT BY JUNKMEN.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

PETROLEUM CO. & B. AT
ATTACKED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Shanghai, 16th April.
11.45 a.m.

An attack was made, on Monday, near Qianshan, by junkmen, on the motor launch of the Asiatic Petroleum Co.

The launch, which was damaged, managed to escape.

The passengers were not seriously hurt.

ANTI-OPIUM CAMPAIGN.

MORE REGULATIONS.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

The Anti-Opium Commissioners have submitted another set of ten regulations dealing with the prohibition of the opium habit.

SHANGHAI SETTLEMENT
EXTENSION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

FRESH APPLICATION.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

The various Foreign Ministers in Peking have again pressed their claim for an extension of the foreign settlement in Shanghai.

IMPERIAL PALACE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

The Central Government is just as firm as ever in opposing it.

CANTON-HANKOW
RAILWAY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

THE GERMAN LOAN.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 12th April.

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MAIL SUPPLEMENT.

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BIRTHS

On February 14, 1909, at Château du Mont D'Or, Cahors, Dordogne, France, the wife of Louis Roche (Commissioner of Customs, retired), of a son—JEAN.

On March 7, 1909, at Dymose, Essex, wife of E. T. BOND, formerly of Caston, daughter.

BRILLIOT.—On April 8th, at Green Park House, 134 Piccadilly, London, the wife of Mr. E. E. BRILLIOT, of a son. (By W.H.)

MARRIAGES

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HERMANN ARTZ, eldest son of Carl Artz, of Brasilia, to Valeria MARGARET, daughter of the late Professor Peter Bobrovskov of Bobruisk.

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, CLAUDE J. G., son of the late John Hill, of Manchester, to Mahon ERICK, 3rd daughter of the late Richard Foster of Durham, and Mrs. Foster-Neville-on-Tyne.

On April 14th, at St. Andrew's Church, Kowloon, ERICKA, daughter of the late William Judicial, Thornton, of Hongkong, to TONIA, 2nd son of the late William Leyland Foster of London.

DEATHS

On April 5, 1909, at Shanghai, HARRY HENDERSON OWLER, of Vastock, near Glasgow, aged 35 years; Electrician with the Shanghai Dock & Engineering Co., Ltd.

On April 6, 1909, at Shanghai, HILDA BEMTRAM, aged 21 months, dearly beloved daughter of Captain and Mrs. F. Lloyd.

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Dante the Magician.

CHARMING ENTERTAINMENT AT THE PHOENIX CLUB.

LADIES' NIGHT PROVE A HUGE SUCCESS.

Those who recollect seeing Carter in his wonderful exhibition of the mystic art with which he delighted Hongkong audiences nearly a year ago, must have found an able rival in the person of "Dante" at the Phoenix Club last Saturday night. The performance was arranged for the delectation of members of the fair sex, and no more fitting recompence could have been bestowed on the performer, who was assisted by Mlle. Narelle, than the raising of fair eyebrows which was noticed throughout the evening and the unstinted applause from the dainty little hands which greeted the entertainer at the conclusion of each difficult and apparently impossible manu-skill. A special feature of the entertainment was the highly artistic programmes printed on silk, which evoked the admiration of members and their friends. Machado's String Band was in attendance during the evening, and discourses pleasant selections of music, which greatly enhanced the effect of the performance.

The performance opened with the customary address. The speaker's words had hardly taken effect when he forthwith set to work. An ordinary newspaper was held before the audience, which, as the performer remarked, contained "nothing" (?). It was then folded unobtrusively and the next movement saw the performer take out the familiar red, white and blue flag from inside the folds. "The Magician's Dream" was a veritable marvel, in which the performer extracted silver dollars from apparently nothing—from flowers, leaves, air, nose, toe—in fact anything that the performer laid his finger on—appeared to be instantaneously transformed into solid, shining currency, as if by a magic touch. A startling sequel was reached when the bald head of a gentleman in the audience was turned into a temporary mohawk, naturally to the owner's great bewilderment. The "somewhat" hackneyed handkerchief trick was invested with peculiar interest in the hands of such a capable conjuror as Dante. For the purpose of this trick, a handkerchief was borrowed from one of the audience. It was subjected to a series of destructive experiments, preferably a huge rent in the middle, but was restored to the owner in the same sound condition as before. "Dante's Buffet or Magic Supper" completely mystified the audience. A well-made sandwich was created from paper and sundry other uneatable articles and when a gentleman's hat was used for a frying-pan, the expression of dismay came over the face of the owner, which, however, was altered to one of relief on the hat being returned to him safe and sound. The last item in the first part of the programme was a series of shadowgraphy marvellously faithful to life, which, to use the performer's own words, was a "marvellous display of digital dexterity" when several phases of everyday occurrences in human and animal life were depicted on the screen solely by means of the performer's fingers. These included "Bee Rabbit," "Tom Cat," "Greyhound eating a Bone," "Elephant's Trunk," "Ferocious Bull-dog," "Swan prizing her Plumage," "The Fool," "Old Woman," etc. In addition to this, an amusing love story was thrown on the screen, in which the performer's head served for a fair damsel's house and the ear for the balcony, the principal actors being the father, the lover and a policeman. The novelty of the item was distinctly good, and evoked considerable merriment.

The second part of the programme was entirely devoted to an item described as "The Simla Stance." A sort of cabinet was placed in the middle of the stage with screens on the four sides. A committee of five gentlemen were selected from the audience in order to see that the proceedings were fair and square. The medium declared to the auditorium that his object was the absolute, total annihilation of time, and as far as the audience is concerned, the medium appeared to have strangely succeeded. The committee were individually invited to make sure that the medium's hands were securely bound and his feet fastened to a chair in a sitting position. The curtain was then drawn on the medium and a musical instrument in the shape of a conglomeration of bells passed over the top of the cabinet. No sooner was this done than the bells commenced to ring violently but the astonishment of a member of the committee can better be imagined than described when on quickly drawing aside the curtain, the medium was found sitting down as securely fastened as possible with a complacent smile illuminating his features; the bells at the same time mysteriously flying over the top on to a side of the stage. The above feat was repeated several times and each time the committee tried to feel satisfied by means of a minute examination of the medium that everything was above board; they fell more convinced than ever, the whole affair tending to baffle them more and more. By way of more convincing proof that there was no deception, a coin was placed on the medium's hands, which was found as gingerly balanced as ever after the medium had apparently used his hands. The medium then filled his mouth with water, and the curtain once again hiding him from view, a trumpet was passed in the usual manner over the top of the cabinet, when it immediately began to sound. The curtain instantly being drawn aside, the medium was seen as helpless as before, with his mouth full of water. The last and most difficult part of an undoubtedly clever performance was when a hat, pipe and coin were passed to the medium and on being exposed to view in a fraction of a minute, the hat was found on his head, the pipe in his mouth and the coin in his eye. The curtain once again concealed the medium, and in a shorter time than it would have taken a sergeant to shout out "Form Four" the medium emerged from the cabinet—released from his fetters. It was unquestionably a clever and arduous piece of work, and the thorough appreciation of the audience was testified by spontaneous applause.

The third and last part of the programme contained some excellent examples of legerdemain. Among these was a watch trick, a Chinese "boy," kindly obliging with his help for the success of the trick. The worthy Celerital betrayed decided signs of nervousness, which, by the way, caused more amusement than the merits of the performance itself. During the progress of the trick, the "boy" was made to drop a watch, which consequently stopped and on being asked to pay the price of the article, it was clearly noticed that there was some doubt in his mind as to the genuineness of the demand. He was also accused of the theft of three similar articles and was highly amused to discover two of them dangling in front of his robe and the third one in the middle of his back. The "Inexhaustible Bottle" trick was one of the best given by the illusionist. By means of a single ordinary bottle, the conjuror supplied drinks which were as varied as they were numerous to a number of people in the auditorium. The people who then visited the "Height, Weight, and Amperage"—a squirming pig suspended in mid-air, which was the cause of considerable consternation among those who had previously helped him to it, to the consternation of the spectators. The animal used was a pig which had been imported from the United States, and it had been despatched through

the air and the next time the audience saw it was from beneath the skirt of one of their number.

Altogether, a very enjoyable evening was spent this present evening, the performance a great success. Considering that opportunities to see really first-class conjurors in Hongkong are few and far between, a word of thanks is due to Mr. Dante, and his able assistant for providing such a charming and refined entertainment.

THE CLOSING OF VLADIVOSTOK.

Ever since the Russo-Japanese War—perhaps to some extent as a consequence of the position held by Russia in the Far East at the termination of hostilities—there has been evidence of Russia's desire to develop the Amur regions commercially. Of those Vladivostok is the principal centre of commerce, the port through which passes import and export trade of lower Siberia. Consequently it was to that city that attention was principally directed. The result of the investigation was not encouraging; it was found that there was growing demand amongst the large population of Asia for cheap goods, irrespective of their quality, and that Russian products of good quality were being replaced by the poorest grade of imports that could be manufactured anywhere. In consequence of its port *au franc* regulations, Vladivostok was thus steadily becoming the dumping ground for the world's more inferior commodities. It was a situation that could not be amended by the merchants. The Government alone, it was felt, was capable of dealing with the problem; and that solution was the more easily acceptable in that Russian trade always goes hand in hand with legislation. Russian merchants are protected from outside competition by high tariffs, and in return, they must submit to be taxed and subjected to certain obligations by their country's regular administrative régime. It was not surprising, therefore, that the Government decided to alter the free port regulations of the Amur in a way that should restore a valuable market to Russian manufacturers. The easiest means of effecting the remedy, apparently, was to extend (with certain slight modifications) to suit the exigencies of the Far East the regular tariff of the Russian Empire to lower Siberia. Technically the scheme involved a certain surrender of Russia's colonial policy, in that the Amur regions had always been looked upon as an adjunct of the main Russian Empire, as separate from it, in many respects, as Canada and Australia are from Great Britain. But such a departure from colonial policy, if it was ever seriously considered, was not allowed to weigh against the business advantages anticipated from suppression of the *port au franc* regulations.

The fact that Russia had decided to close the port of Vladivostok was made known some five months ago; but, strangely enough, foreign exporters do not seem to have realized what an opportunity they had, until the time to take advantage of it had passed. Apparently the general impression was that a year would elapse before the protective policy would be enforced; and even the merchants of Vladivostok itself, four months later, were calmly haggling over terms with their suppliers, when word was received that the port was to be closed in four days' time. The situation was almost tragic: "hundreds of people besieged the telegraph office in the vain hope of sending a message that would ensure the arrival of big supplies within the specified time and the telegraph operators passed through a most harassing day's work. It is unlikely, however, that any very material advantage was gained by this belated energy; for, during the next four days, very few supplies are said to have reached the port, although overdue consignments were numerous at a later date. The examination that was at once instituted is said to have been extremely rigorous. When a steamer arrived to port her hatches were sealed until the officials were ready to make their examination, and, naturally at such a time, even passengers' luggage was carefully scrutinized. The situation was not without its humorous side, for a duty on champagne was now fixed at Rs. 2.10 per bottle, and many expressions of dolor regret were passed when that commodity rose from Rs. 33 to Rs. 60 per case. Considerable disappointment was also caused to the Japanese by a duty of Rs. 1 per barrel on soy, which is nearly five times the prime cost of that article in Japan. The Chinese were enabled to add their voices to the chorus of general regret, for hulled rice was also heavily burdened. Cattle were still allowed to enter duty free, but meat had to pay Rs. 150 per pound (40 lb.). The only article that was dealt in to any extent by merchants of Shanghai was tea; on that the impost was placed at Rs. 8.00 per pound, an amount that ought to ensure the uninterrupted consumption of Russian tea, no matter how great the demand may now be for that simple beverage.

The application of the new tariff appears to have imbued the Vladivostok Municipal Council with a very keen sense of its obligations to the Empire; for at a meeting held on March 15 it adopted by a majority of twenty-four votes to two a programme embodying numerous improvements. Amongst the proposed innovations are the construction of electric traction, electric light, waterworks, markets and improved slaughter-houses. A Municipal Bank and a Stock Exchange are also provided for and better schools and hospitals are to be established at the earliest possible opportunity in order to carry out these laudable schemes. The Municipal Council has forwarded to the Home Government a petition asking for permission to issue Municipal Bonds. The entire cost is estimated at Rs. 6,355,000 divided in the following manner: waterworks, Rs. 2,500,000; electric traction, Rs. 1,500,000; Municipal Bank, Rs. 200,000 (Capital); Stock Exchange, Rs. 100,000; Schools, Hospital, Market, and Slaughter-houses, Rs. 1,000,000. The balance of Rs. 1,500,000 is to be placed to reserve. The Municipal Council is said to be sanguine of securing the necessary consent of the Government, and it appears probable that, at least of these enterprises will be carried out. How far these schemes depend upon the success of the new tariff, however, it must be left to the future to decide. Vladivostok has now made a wide departure from its former policy and it will be interesting to see whether the high wall of tariff erected amongst the many comparatively free ports of the Far East will aid in its development, or lead to a shrinkage of trade. The outlook is encouraging, but, perhaps, the Vladivostok Municipal Council would be well-advised if it waited for some definite result before committing itself to such big undertakings. From the standpoints of Russia as a whole, the imposition of a tariff at Vladivostok, with the closer union that it establishes between eastern and western domains, seems to denote a definite resumption of a forward and settled policy in the Far East. Such evidently is the opinion held at Vladivostok, and the ultimate result of that view will be awaited with the keenest interest.

At the conclusion of the sprints, the prizes were presented to the successful competitors by Mrs. Forsyth, and three chevrons for that lady brought the proceedings to a close.

The Committee of the Victoria Recreation Club tender their thanks to the following who have kindly presented prizes:—The Hongkong Corinthian Yacht Club, the Hongkong A.A.A., the Lusitania Recreation Club, the Yukon Club, the China Sugar Refinery, Staff Sgt. Mr. Chater, R.C.M.C., Mr. H. H. Mody, Mr. Robert Shaw, Mr. E. G. Shelling, Mr. W. C. Craven, Mr. G. A. Warre, Dr. F. H. K. D'Arcy, Mr. G. C. H. H. Mody, and Mr. C. C. Matthews.

In the Police Court last Monday morning, a Frenchwoman, giving the name of Marguerite Allamand, was sued by the magistrate for soliciting in Des Voeux Road on Sunday last. The magistrate, after a short trial, despatched the

LADY LOGARD'S DEPARTURE.

LEADING CHINESE TO BID FAREWELL.

On Saturday, the 10th inst., Lady Logard, the genial wife of the general Governor of Hongkong, will depart for the homeland this afternoon on board the C. P. R. liner, the "Empress of Japan." Previous to her departure, a deputation of leading Chinese citizens of the Colony will be presented by Hon. Dr. Ho Kai, C.M.O., at Government House at half-past four in the afternoon.

Lady Logard, whose recent serious illness was the cause of much anxiety, has been obliged to sever her connections with the Colony owing to the fact that Her Ladyship's health was marred on more than one occasion by a "treacherous" climate. While regretting Lady Logard's departure, which will however be felt more keenly than at Government House, we congratulate Her Excellency on her convalescence and wish her a pleasant sojourn in the land of her birth. During Her Ladyship's stay in the Colony, she endeared herself to all with whom she came in contact by her noble and kindly disposition and none will feel her absence more poignantly than those who have good cause to be thankful to her for substantial sympathy in the cause of charity.

VICTORIA RECREATION CLUB.

SATURDAY'S ANNUAL SPORTS.

Patrons—H. E. Sir. Frederick Logard, K.C.M.G., D.S.O., H. E. Vice-Admiral Sir H. H. Worth Lambton, K.C.V.O., His Excellency Major-General Broadbent, C.B., Commodore Lyon R.W., and the Hon. Mr. F. H. May, C.M.C. Judges—Messrs. W. Armstrong, W. H. Drake, T. E. Pearce, C. B. Franklin, A. McKinstry, J. Radger, M. A. Souza, A. Humphreys, and Dr. C. Forsyth. Referees—Mr. G. A. Caldwell, Handicappers—Rev. W. H. Maundrell, R.N., Mr. A. McKinstry, Dr. F. H. Kew, and Mr. H. L. O. Garrett. Clerks of the Course—Mr. L. L. Lamert, Mr. M. McIver and Mr. C. E. Libeard. Starters—Mr. R. Sutherland and Mr. E. M. Hasland. Time-keepers—Mr. T. Meek and Mr. A. N. Kemp. Hon. Treasurer—Mr. S. A. Seth. Hon. Secretary—Mr. F. Lamert.

Last Saturday afternoon, the twelfth annual athletic meeting of the Victoria Recreation Club was held on the Hongkong Football Club ground. The meeting came off under extremely favourable weather conditions, the sky being almost cloudless blue. An important factor in the success of the meeting was the presence of a large number of ladies attired in the latest creations, while the Band of the 13th Rajput under the baton of Bandmaster Coke did much to enliven the proceedings with pleasant selections of music. The various events were very keenly contested. Corporal Andrews, the crack runner of The Buffs, whose success in the recent Macau Carnival was the talk of the town, was in excellent form, and again came up to expectations.

Following are detailed results of the events:—
LONG JUMP—1—J. J. Crowley, 2—F. G. Carroll, Distance: 19 ft. 3 in.
HIGH JUMP—1—P. Linton, 5 ft. 6 in., 2—A. C. Leith. Linton beat his own record of 5 ft. 3 in. last year.
120 YARDS FLAT RACE HANDICAP—1—P. Fenwick, scr. 2—J. F. Castro, 1 yard. Time: 12 3/5.
100 YARDS FLAT RACE—Challenge Cup presented by Dr. F. H. Kew, to be won three times before becoming the property of a competitor—1—F. G. Carroll, 2—P. C. Fenwick. This was a close event, one yard separating the winner from the second man, P. O. Fenwick.

BOYS' RACE, 100 YARDS HANDICAP, 1—Alves, 2—Lopes.
TEAM RACE, 220 YARDS, 1—H. K. A. A.: (J. J. Crowley, F. G. Carroll, A. E. Coombes and P. Linton), 2—Lusitano Recreation Club (J. F. Castro, F. H. Hyndman, D. A. Soares and F. L. da Rosa).
GIRLS' RACE, 80 YARDS HANDICAP—1—Eliza Stainboid, 2—Rosa Stainboid.
BICYCLE RACE, two miles (Handicap). 1—Alves, 2—Lopes.
BICYCLE RACE, 120 YARDS, 1—H. K. A. A.: (J. J. Crowley, F. G. Carroll, A. E. Coombes and P. Linton), 2—Lusitano Recreation Club (J. F. Castro, F. H. Hyndman, D. A. Soares and F. L. da Rosa).

100 YARDS FLAT RACE, CHALLENGE CUP, presented by Mr. H. N. Mody, to be won three times before becoming the property of a competitor. 1—Corpl. A. W. Andrews, The Buffs. Time: 51 4/5.
120 YARDS HURDLE RACE, TEN FLIGHTS, 1—P. Linton, penalised two and a half yards. 2—M. McIntrye, 3—H. W. Peterson.
HALF-MILE FLAT RACE, Open—1—Read, The Buffs 2—Macau, The Buffs 3—S. Taylor. Time: 2m. 15 1/5 sec.
GIRLS' RACE, 100 YARDS HANDICAP, open to girls between ages of 10 and 15. 1—P. Almeida 2—Summer. 3—J. Stokes.

440 YARDS FLAT RACE, CHALLENGE CUP, presented by Mr. H. N. Mody, to be won three times before becoming the property of a competitor. 1—Corpl. A. W. Andrews, The Buffs. Time: 51 4/5.

There were ten entries for this race, but not a single competitor besides Corpl. Andrews tried for the honours. Andrews beat the previous best time for the above race (56 2/5 sec.) by about five seconds.

BICYCLE RACE, three miles, Handicap, 1—J. Forbes, scr. 2—J. MacRae, 50 yards. Forbes and MacRae took up close positions at the last lap, he fell back and MacRae took his place, winning the race easily. Forbes fell at the start and did not compete.
120 YARDS HURDLE RACE, TEN FLIGHTS, 1—P. Linton, penalised two and a half yards. 2—M. McIntrye, 3—H. W. Peterson.

HALF-MILE FLAT RACE, Open—1—Read, The Buffs 2—Macau, The Buffs 3—S. Taylor. Time: 2m. 15 1/5 sec.

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440 YARDS FLAT RACE, CHALLENGE CUP, presented by Mr. H. N. Mody, to be won three times before becoming the property of a competitor. 1—Corpl. A. W. Andrews, The Buffs. Time: 51 4/5.

Four competitors started with the winner in this race, of whom, Mr. A. R. Ellis only succeeded in covering the distance. Andrews, however, won easily.

SACK RACE—1—Pie Marsh, The Buffs.

ONE-MILE FLAT RACE HANDICAP—1—D. MacRae, 120 yards, 2—J. Forbes, 120 yards. Time: 1m. 50 5/6 sec.

A good finish was witnessed in this race.

CONSOLIDATION RACE, 120 YARDS—1—D. Soares.

At the conclusion of the sprints, the prizes were presented to the successful competitors by Mrs. Forsyth, and three chevrons for that lady brought the proceedings to a close.

The Committee of the Victoria Recreation Club tender their thanks to the following who have kindly presented prizes:—The Hongkong Corinthian Yacht Club, the Hongkong A.A.A., the Lusitano Recreation Club, the Yukon Club, the China Sugar Refinery, Staff Sgt. Mr. Chater, R.C.M.C., Mr. H. H. Mody, Mr. Robert Shaw, Mr. E. G. Shelling, Mr. W. C. Craven, Mr. G. A. Warre, Dr. F. H. K. D'Arcy, Mr. G. C. H. H. Mody, and Mr. C. C. Matthews.

THE CANTON-HANKOW LOAN.

AGITATION IN SHANGHAI.

The following leading article is from the *W. C. D. News* of Shantung. Although it was not specifically stated in our telegrams yesterday that the loan agreement concluded by the Deutsche-Asiatische Bank, representing a group of German bankers, to finance the Canton-Hankow Railway, the events of the past three weeks have left no doubt that this is actually the case. It will be remembered that the first definite intimation of the German bankers' action in the matter of the loan was contained in a telegram dated March 9 from our Peking correspondent. It was then stated that a loan agreement had been concluded between Grand Councillor Chang, Ching-chung, and the Deutsche-Asiatische Bank.

The meeting was held in consequence of a telegram received from the Society of Protection of Interests in the Macao Boundary. This

THE MACAO DELIMITATION.

AGITATION IN SHANGHAI.

On Sunday afternoon last a meeting of Chinese was held in the Cantonese Guild Building in Ningpo Road to discuss the question of making endeavours to preserve Chinese territory and rights in the Macao Boundary. The meeting reported the *W. C. D. News* of the 10th inst. The meeting was held in consequence of a telegram received from the Society of Protection of Interests in the Macao Boundary, which asked the Chinese to exert their influence with Commissioner Chan to not concede further Chinese territory in Macao. A large gathering was present and it was decided to reply to the Society in Hongkong promising to do the utmost, and asking for all available information on the subject.

THE CHINA FLOUR MILL COMPANY, LIMITED.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The fourteenth general meeting of shareholders of the China Flour Mill Co., Ltd. was held at Shanghai on 6th inst. There were present Messrs. A. McLeod (president), H. J. Such and Walter Schaff (directors), R. Kuprich, A. E. Charlton, John Watson, A. S. Wilson (Messrs. Stoker, Platt and Treadale), I. Brook, G. A. Schneider and Chang Yuen-ching. The number of shares represented was 1,710.

Mr. Schaff read the notice calling the meeting.

The Chairman then said:—Ladies and gentlemen, the report and accounts for year ending 31st Dec. 1908, having been in your hands for some days, you will doubtless agree to same being taken as read. It is with considerable regret that the Directors are not able to place before you a more satisfactory account of the year's working than that now submitted, but you are all aware of the very depressed condition of trade during 1908, not only in Shanghai, but in all parts of the East and this depression has greatly affected the Flour Milling industry. Stocks of flour that we held, partly sold but not cleared, accumulated in our godowns to a much greater extent than in former years and all efforts made to induce native buyers to clear their purchases did not meet with much success. To provide room for such large quantities, the flour had to be stored in higher tiers than customary, causing very considerable pressure upon the lower layers of flour. It will be with your recollection that we have already been disengaged in the same business for a long time and I may assure you that we have not been able to fill the market with flour at a price which would be considered reasonable. In the story, it would be interesting, for example, to know precisely whether the German financiers had much to do with this. As soon as this was ascertained, the usual work of the Mill was stopped; the whole of the stock was restored and all flour found to be hard was remilled and re-dressed; such work could not be done without considerable expense, but it was considerably preferable to incur this expense rather than send out flour not up to our usual standard. This, it was anticipated, would end the trouble, but much to our disappointment later on complaints reached us from the consuming districts of remilled flour having undergone a

Joss Sticks in the Colonial Cemetery.

CHINESE DISABILITIES.

THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITIES.

At the meeting of the Sarcophagus Board last Tuesday afternoon, Mr. Shelton Hooper, pursuant to notice, moved the following resolution:—That as the new Cemetery Bye-laws prohibit the burning of joss sticks and firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery, it is desirable for the Government to select a new site and authorise a cemetery for the interment of bodies of persons of the Buddhist faith when it may be lawful for the practice of such rites and ceremonies.

He said that before he would address the members, he wished to make an amendment and proposed a slight difference in the motion proposed, the words "and other non-Christian faiths and for whom no special cemeteries have been provided" being added between the words "Buddhist Faith" and "where it may be," etc.

The amendment being agreed to, Mr. Hooper proceeded to say, that on the 13th October last, the Board passed a bye-law whereby the burning of joss sticks and the firing of crackers in the Colonial Cemetery were prohibited. The bye-law was carried in due course. At the time he proposed the resolution, he had not the least idea that it would inflict a hardship on any section of the community. He was under the impression that the practice of burning joss sticks only existed at the graves of Chinese cemeteries. It had been brought to his notice, however, that many Japanese were also being interred in the cemetery and they felt it a hardship that there was no provision made whereby they could observe their religious rites. It was the duty of every State to provide for the burial of its dead, and in an English Colony, they were only too pleased to provide cemeteries for the interment of any community. The speaker referred to an old Government proclamation which afforded facilities to all denominations to carry out their religious rites and since that time the Government lawfully carried out what it said in that proclamation. He felt sure that every member of the Board would support his resolution. He appealed to his Chinese colleagues to support him in the resolution of which he had given notice. They all realised how dear their religious were to them and they should not forget how dear other people's religion was to members of other persuasions. They could not deny that right to the dead of the Japanese or any other Buddhist country.

Mr. Fitzwilliams said that he felt sure that when the restrictions were proposed, there was no idea to cast a hardship on any faith, but it was merely a matter which had been overlooked.

Mr. Lau Chu Pak said that he wished to refer to one or two points with regard to which Mr. Lau Chu Pak was in error. The speaker referred to an old Treaty book dated 1866. Mr. Leiria, Consul for Portugal, and Mrs. Leiria, and a number of officers from visiting Portuguese cruisers, who manifested a keen interest in the afternoon's proceedings. The events were all keenly contested and it was refreshing to see the competitors engage in friendly rivalry for the honours of the day. A feature of the afternoon was the tug-of-war contest for Portuguese sailors, which turned out a tough event, the representatives of the Patria eventually winning from the men of the *Vasco da Gama* after a hard tussle. The other events were likewise interesting, all having a large number of entries. During the afternoon, the 13th Rajput Band under Bandmaster Cole played popular selections of music, which were much appreciated. Detailed results of the events are appended:—

Boys' Race, 220 Yards (Handicap)—Boys from 10 to 15 years of age. First prize presented by Mr. A. G. da Silva. Second prize presented by Mr. J. F. L. da Silva.

1—P. Pereira, 220 yds. 2—G. Roza, 30 yds.

BICYCLE RACE, 1 mile (Handicap)—First prize presented by Mr. A. M. L. Soares. Second prize presented by Club Venatorio.

1—C. M. Sequira, 80 yds. 2—F. M. G. Ozorio, 150 yds. Time: 3 mins. 5 secs.

220 YARDS FLAT RACE (Challenge Cup)—Presented by Club Lusitano. To be won two years in succession before becoming the property of a competitor. First prize presented by the members of the Sociedade Philanthropica. Second prize presented by Messrs. Graca & Co.

1—J. F. Castro. 2—D. A. Soares. Time: 33 1/2 secs.

Boys' Race, 100 yards (Handicap). For girls under 10 years of age. First prize presented by children of subscribers. First prize presented by "A Sportsman." Second prize presented by the Lusitano Recreation Club. Third prize presented by Mr. O. F. Ribeiro.

1—G. Pinna. 2—M. E. Loureiro. 3—A. Silva.

THREE-LEGGED RACE, 100 yards—First prize presented by Messrs. J. C. dos Remedios & Co. Second prize presented by Mr. J. F. Castro. 2—D. A. Soares. Time: 33 1/2 secs.

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THE GOVERNOR'S TRIP TO CANTON.

CHINESE NAVAL ASCENS PROVIDED.

[From Our Special Representative.]

Shameen, 7th April.

It may not be generally known that the Governor of Hongkong and party were accorded a signal honour to-day upon their arrival within the waters of Canton to assist at the historic ceremony of the laying of the foundation stone of the station building of the Canton-Kowloon Railway (Imperial Chinese section) of which I am giving you a full and detailed account. [This report was printed in our issue of the 8th inst.—Ed. A.T.] The special mark of honour shown to the head of the Executive in the British Colony is peculiarly gratifying to British residents on the Shamian as demonstrating the cordial relations subsisting between the representatives of two neighbouring ports whose commercial interests are so interdependent with each other as Canton and Hongkong are.

The official party from Hongkong included His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, Capt. P. H. Mitchell-Taylor, A.D.C., Capt. Simson, private secretary, Hon. Mr. F. H. May, Colonial Secretary, Mr. A. G. M. Fletcher, assistant colonial secretary, and Lieut. G. C. Beckwith, assistant harbour master. I learn that the Government tender *Stanley* (commanded by Capt. G. Willoughby), which brought the party up, left Hongkong about a quarter past eleven on Tuesday. When she left Blake Pier the moon was high up and the night was bright. The journey all the way up was a most delightful one with a light pleasant breeze blowing all the time. The *Stanley* passed Tiger Island (Bogou Forts) at dawn, proceeding up the river-bend easy steam. The cruiser *Kiang Tsu*, flagship of Admiral Li Chun, and the *Kiang Wu*, were awaiting the arrival of the distinguished visitors. Both the Chinese vessels were dressed in honour of the British Governor. As soon as the *Stanley* passed the cruisers, a salute of twenty-one guns was fired, and, allowing the *Stanley* the position of honour in the lead, the sister vessels followed in the wake of the tender till Tai-shock Barrier was passed. At this point Admiral Li on the *Kiang Tsu* steamed ahead, the sister ship *Kiang Wu* bringing up, the rear guard escorting. His Excellency and party, to the Southern Capital. All the way up on either side of the river the Chinese soldiers garrisoning the numerous forts and fortresses had turned out for review. Trumpet blowing, drum beating and the usual concomitants of Chinese merry-making heralded the approach of the *Stanley*. The tender arrived off the Shamian a little after ten, and was boarded by Mr. H. H. Fox, acting British Consul-General in Canton, and the leading residents in the foreign concession. At the conclusion of the official visit the *Stanley* proceeded to Tai-shau-tau to attend the corner-stone ceremony. A boat from H.M.S. *Monarch* conveyed the official party to the jetty. Upon the conclusion of the ceremony the Governor and suite re-embarked on board the *Stanley* which steamed back to Shamian, departing from Canton waters on the return journey to Hongkong at 11.30 p.m.

EMPEROR'S LIVER.

WIRELESS INSTALLATION.

14th inst.

We are advised that the Marconi wireless apparatus has been installed on the *Emperor of China*, which steamer is due to arrive in Hongkong at 3 o'clock to-morrow afternoon, and that the *Emperor of India* and *Emperor of Japan* will be similarly fitted on reaching Vancouver.

A TRIP THROUGH SETUL.

STANNIFEROUS LAND AWAITING THE PROSPECTOR.

'Miner' sends to the *Bangkok Times* an account of a trip through Setul, a comparatively little-known Siamese State to the north of Penang and Kedah. These passages refer more particularly to the natural resources of this district:

The population of Setul is about 5,000, Malays predominating, but there are a good many Chinese and Tamils and a few Siamese.

The roads are level, and well made with deep brick drains, on either side to carry away the surface water; and are kept clean and free from rubbish.

The main road through the State is good for travelling as far as Sungai Dusun, 14 miles, and a new road following the telegraph line from Kampung China to Perlis has been started and partly made as far as Wang Blachan, but the road requires metalling, and several bridges will have to be built, but I understand there are no funds available for this work, which has to be paid for out of revenue.

On either side of this new road there are large areas of agricultural land, both flat and undulating, available and eminently suitable for rubber or sugar planting and equal to anything in the F. M. S.

The land is well watered, requires little draining, and has the advantage of being served by a good road and within easy distance of a shipping port, whilst the telegraph line traverses the property.

There are also immense areas of stanniferous land waiting for the prospector, and the throwing open of the State by the Government to miners. At the present time Malays and Chinese only are allowed to take up land for mining purposes, to the exclusion of the European who could introduce capital and open up the country.

Several large areas have been taken up by Chinese but no actual mining or prospecting has been done, and although the Siamese Mining Regulations apply to the State, there does not appear to be any resident official capable of enforcing them, and all applications for mining or agricultural land must be made direct to Bangkok.

It is difficult to understand why these small States on the Western Coast are not thrown open to foreigners—as are the Eastern States—for mining and planting, but the methods of Eastern Governments are proverbially slow.

The writer has spent some months in the State, and has come across very old Siamese, tin workings, and evidence that the tin was crudely smelted for export, the tin slag found assaying over 20 per cent. He also discovered several places in the interior where payable tin could be mined, but until a satisfactory title is obtainable it would be useless to take the land up, or rather apply for it.

The State is well administered by a Governor (Maha), a very enlightened man, but the amount of revenue derived at present is quite inadequate to meet the expenses of road making, bridge building, and generally opening up the country.

What the introduction of outside capital is permitted, and granted to Europeans for mining and planting, and this must inevitably come in time—and the European Adviser to the Government is appointed at Pefie, it will not be difficult to prophesy a great future for this little known State.

GUNBOAT FOR MACAO.

NEW SHALLOW DRAFT VESSEL TO BE PUT UP IN HONGKONG.

ACTION FOR ALLEGED BREACH OF CONTRACT.

A. YAT PO.

A MANAGER'S SALARY.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED.

ANNUAL REPORT.

At *Yat Po*, a restaurant manager, sued the *Yin Wan Kee* eating-house, of 81, Station Street South, Yau-mai-ti, in the Supreme Court, last Wednesday, to recover the sum of \$600 for damages for alleged breach of contract.

Mr. E. Davidson, of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings, was for the plaintiff, while Mr. Otto Kopp, *Sing Sing*, was for *Yat Po*. It would seem from his story, was at one time in the employ of the defendant firm. As a matter of fact he was the promoter of the business. As manager of the firm his remuneration was \$600 a year. The engagement commenced last February and plaintiff remained in the defendant's employ for only two months, when he was dismissed without notice.

Mr. Justice Gomperz asked plaintiff's solicitor whether he was suing for a year's salary. The reply was in the affirmative. The plaintiff was dismissed without justification and was entitled to damages, which he would have earned were he allowed to complete the contract. The reason why he was discharged was because he had refused to write off one of the partner's shares. The shares had not been paid up in full and they wanted plaintiff to write "settled" over the account which he refused to do. There was a row and plaintiff was discharged on the spot.

The plaintiff, cross-examined by Mr. Kong Sling, stated that when he promoted the firm there were six partners. Mr. Kong Sling then took the plaintiff to the roles of the contract as drawn by the partners. He suggested that certain additions were made without the knowledge of the other partners by plaintiff, but this was denied. The addition, it was alleged, was with regard to the \$600 which was supposed to have been plaintiff's salary. The accountant who drew up the agreement, and who was employed by the firm, drew \$6 a month. When the partnership dissolved the business was not put up for sale by tender. The partners thought of doing so, but later changed their minds.

Mr. Kong Sling—Did not you in a previous case between the partners say that the business was sold?—No.

Wasn't it because the business was losing that the transfers were made?—No, the business was not a losing concern.

At the time the business started you made no estimate of the working expenses?—Yes.

How many men did you estimate to employ?—About twenty.

Were you in charge of the wages book?—No. Have you seen it?—Yes.

The wages book was produced when plaintiff identified and pointed out his name, which gave the salary on which he was received.

As a matter of fact you received \$4 a month?—No, replied plaintiff with great emphasis. How much do managers of restaurants get a month?—Between \$60 and \$60.

In that book you allowed \$60 for all wages. How do you account for your \$6?—That was a guess. It was only an estimate.

Your \$60 was to be paid out of the \$60?—That estimate was a rough one made before the business opened.

Further evidence was called by the plaintiff. After that the defence opened its case and proceeded to show that plaintiff was only engaged at \$8 a month and that whatever money was owing to him by the firm was paid in full.

The case was adjourned until Monday next.

A RESCUE AT SEA.

ADRIFT IN A SMALL BOAT.

The *Siam Free Press* of 20th ult. says:—Captain Reher, of the *s.s. Raja*, which arrived this morning from Hongkong, reported that when near Pulo, Opi he picked up three *Anamites* who were adrift in a small boat. They had, it seems, been blown out to sea from the mouth of the Saigon river, a distance of about 240 miles and were in a very miserable condition. Upon arrival here they were handed over to the Harbour Department which in turn sent them to the French Consulate.

DARING OUTRAGE IN KOBE.

FOREIGN LADY ROBBED.

A young foreign lady, Miss M. Fleming, in the employ of Messrs. C. Nickel & Co., Kobe, was a victim of a highway robbery on Tuesday evening, 20th ult. The lady was walking up the Hill towards the *Tor* Hotel at about 7.30, and was just passing the residence of Mr. C. Lutes in Yamamoto-dori, 3-chome, when a Japanese suddenly sprang on her, snatched a bag containing \$270 in cash, which she was carrying in her right hand, with the cord round her wrist. The man vanished as suddenly as he had appeared. Upon arrival at the hotel, Miss Fleming communicated with the police by telephone, and no time was lost in instituting a search for the robber, but without result. The police are redoubling their efforts, however, and it is hoped the man will be arrested shortly.

In an interview with a *Japan Chronicle* representative yesterday Miss Fleming said that she had just left a lady friend when she noticed that she was being followed by a rough-looking man of the coolie class. This man suddenly came up and struck her a violent blow on the back of the neck, then seized her wrist and snatched the bag she was carrying, disappearing down a dark narrow lane. Miss Fleming proceeded at once to the *Tor* Hotel and the manager telephoned to the police, who were soon on the spot, but no trace of the thief could be found.

This is the third time Miss Fleming has been similarly attacked, and on each occasion these attacks have occurred on the last day of the month.

SHANGHAI GAOL BREAK.

PRISONERS AT LARGE.

Great excitement was caused in the Hongkong district about one o'clock to-day by the sound of police whistles and the sight of British guards in all directions, reports the *Shanghai Mercury* of 7th inst. It was learned that a gang of six convicts who were undergoing sentences of imprisonment ranging from one to three years for various crimes, such as kidnapping, robbery, etc., had escaped from the *Hongkong Road* depot of the Municipal gaol, which is situated near the railway station and used as a stone yard, being surrounded by a bamboo fence. While the men were at work and the guards patrolling the grounds, the men broke the chain by which they were attached to each other with a stone hammer with which they were working, and making a sudden dash for the gate, they were soon on the public road and scattering in various directions. They made good their escape, some going along Honan Road, and others making in the direction of Pao-shan territory only a short distance away. Later in the afternoon one of the escaped convicts was the head of the family. The accused, T. Oishi, was captured by the native police and he will be handed back to the Municipal Authorities. Among those who escaped was one who had been serving in the gaol break of last year during which he was divorced on account of monetary difficulties and the divorce was duly registered in March, 1907. On the suggestion of the accused, T. Oishi, Shiodo authorised the former, who was then practising as a barrister, to draw up a bogus document purporting to show that a sum of \$1000 was to be paid by Shiodo to T. Oishi as remuneration for legal services rendered by the latter during the time Shiodo was in the gaol.

As will be remembered it was alleged that the accused, Chindu, who had married into the Tani family, of Kagawa prefecture, being subsequently registered as the head of the family, was divorced on account of monetary difficulties and the divorce was duly registered in March, 1907. On the suggestion of the accused, T. Oishi, Shiodo authorised the former, who was then practising as a barrister, to draw up a bogus document purporting to show that a sum of \$1000 was to be paid by Shiodo to T. Oishi as remuneration for legal services rendered by the latter during the time Shiodo was in the gaol.

In addition the brigades were mentioned that of Messrs. Howarth & Kirkis Ltd., was held in readiness to set off the fire-wardrobe, not only from their own works, but also from the districts where last year fire took place, much of which had been built upon. So far as we can learn none of the premises destroyed were insured, and it is to be hoped that the insurance companies will be generous in their compensation for the loss.

THE HONGKONG ELECTRIC COMPANY LIMITED.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The report of the Board of Directors at the twentieth ordinary meeting of shareholders, to be held at the Company's Offices, St. George's Building, at noon on Saturday, 24th inst., is as follows:

Our directors have the pleasure to submit to you the accompanying statement of the company's accounts for the year ending 28th February, 1909.

The balance at credit of profit and loss account (\$3,000) there remains a sum of \$61,702.92 available for appropriation, and your directors recommend that this be disposed of as follows:

To pay a dividend of 10 per cent.—

To pay 50c. per share on 60,000 shares \$ 60,000.00

To pay a bonus of 2 per cent.—

To pay 20c. per share on 60,000 shares 12,000.00

To write off plant account for depreciation 66,382.15

To write off property account for depreciation 11,043.99

To pay a bonus to staff 4,081.30

To carry forward to next account 5,195.40

..... \$158,702.92

DIRECTORS.

In accordance with the articles of association of the Company, Messrs. J. W. C. Bonnar and E. G. Barrett retire, but, being eligible, offer themselves for re-election.

AUDITORS.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and J. Cox Edwards (the latter in place of Mr. C. W. May who is absent from the Colony). Messrs. W. Hutton Potts and J. Cox Edwards offer themselves for re-election.

J. W. C. BONNAR, Chairman.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1909.

STATEMENT OF ACCOUNTS TO FEBRUARY 28TH, 1909.

Liabilities.

Capital:—

60,000 shares each \$10 paid up \$600,000.00

Sundry creditors 7,122.50

Suspense account 6,793.29

Balance of profit and loss account 151,702.92

Assets.

Plant, cost of, as per last account \$483,308.60

Less amount provided for depreciation 58,308.60

..... \$425,000.00

Cost of plant, since added 71,382.15

..... \$504,382.15

Property, cost of land and Buildings as per last account \$123,612.10

Less amount provided for depreciation 13,612.10

..... \$110,000.00

Cost of buildings since added 1,043.99

..... \$111,043.99

Installation material, stock of 45,368.24

Stores and cash, stock of Tools, &c., stock of Furniture, cost of, as per last account 14,396.52

..... \$57,764.74

Cost of furniture, since added 620.00

..... \$620.00

Insurance, value of unexpired portions of policies 1,500.00

Sundry debtors 28,007.74

Cash with agents 23,139.13

Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation 55,120.53

..... \$77,653.60

WORKING ACCOUNT.

Dr.

To Agency and office Expenses \$ 8,000.00

To Rent and taxes 3,978.86

THE LATE MR. O. D. THOMSON

SUDDEN DEATH AT SWATOW.

13th inst.—Mr. O. D. Thomson, the well-known solicitor of Hongkong, died at Swatow on Monday morning. Mr. Thomson left the Colony on Friday last, with the inter-port cricket team as score. On Saturday he acted as linesman at the football match, and soon afterwards he became ill—having had a fit—and was attended by Dr. Moreland. The next day he apparently was in the best of condition, and took the scores at the cricket match, but towards nightfall, he once more became ill, and was by this time confined to bed. Dr. Moreland was again called in, and attended to the patient, who, however, expired shortly afterwards—in fact, at 2.30 on Monday morning. Death, in the opinion of the doctors, was due to heart failure.

Mr. Thomson left Hongkong on Friday last by the steamer *Watching* with the inter-port cricketers. He seemed in the best of spirits on the voyage, and played cards most of the time. When the team lost at football, Mr. Thomson called attention to the fact that the team consisted of "thirteen" and left Hongkong on "Friday," that he was the "thirteenth" man and that the team was expected to return to Hongkong to-day—the thirteenth. Whether Mr. Thomson was a superstitious man or not, could not be told, but the fact remains that he informed a member of the team that since they had lost at the second, on the following night, curious to remark, Mr. Thomson became ill, having had two fits, and shortly afterwards expired in the house of Mr. Forbes. The greatest sympathy is felt for his widow and his three young children.

Mr. Thomson's remains were brought to Hongkong this morning for burial, the funeral taking place this afternoon, and was well attended.

Mr. Thomson practised as a solicitor in London in 1892, and came out to Hongkong nearly ten years ago, to join the firm of Messrs. Deacon and Hastings. In 1901 he joined Mr. M. J. D. Stephen, and for about twelve months the firm was known as Stephens and Thomson, but since 1903 Mr. Thomson practised on his own in the Colony.

THE LOSS OF THE S.S. "ADATO."

WRECK BREAKS IN TWO.

The *Japan Herald* states that the Yokohama Customs Authorities received information on the 6th inst. that the s.s. *Adato*, an iron ship on Oshima island, broke in half on Monday night, the cargo being lost. Another report says that news was received from Oshima by the Yokohama Customs at 2 p.m. on the 6th instant, that the steamer *Adato*, which has been stranded at Oshima since January 19th of this year, and the cargo of which has been since under salvage, slipped from the rock on Monday night and broke in two, amidships, on account of storms which have been raging since the 6th instant. The cargo has been drifting away.

DOG NUISANCE AT WANCHAI.

DISTRICT FULL OF UNLICENSED PARIAHS.

The *Times* attention has been called by a correspondent (signing himself "Hydrophobia") to a dog nuisance which exists in that district round about the race-course. Judging from the letter, which we have received, we think "Hydrophobia" has good cause for complaint, and we hope that steps will be taken to eradicate the evil before any serious injury is inflicted upon residents in that district. We append the letter in full—

"Not very long ago an order was issued by the Captain Superintendent of Police to the effect that all dogs found in the streets at night (whether licensed or not) were to be shot.

"For about a month the Police, especially those in the Wanchai district, wasted much ammunition, around the whole neighbourhood, but seldom was a member of the canine tribe 'bullet-ed.'—Have they given up the attempt now? If so, why?

"In the Eastern district, more so around Morrison Hill and Leighton Hill Roads, children are afraid to leave their houses owing to the presence of these semi-wild parishes (most of which are unlicensed).

"And taxpayers wonder why the revenue is on the decrease?

"These dogs (if they must be called by that name) are of a most vicious nature. They are kept locked up all day long, and when released in the afternoon—well, women and children are at a loss, to discover in which direction to flee out of their way.

"Several persons, Chiameen especially, have been bitten, and I believe, compensation has hushed up the matter. But will I, the father of a few, suffer my children to be the victims of hydrophobia for the question of a dollar or so?

"It was not six months ago that the police at No. 1 Police Station started a crusade against the owners of unlicensed dogs. Those who were summoned and fined were Portuguese, Chinese, and Japanese. But did they at the time try other quarters where dogs—and a nuisance to other people—abound? If they—as they should do—have a house to house visit, then—and not till then—will the tax-payers of the district be permitted to go out unmoleded."

PAINFUL EXPERIENCE.

DOWNFALL OF COOLIE WHILE COMMITTING UNLAWFUL ACT.

A Chinese coolie, name unknown, about thirty years of age, had a most adventurous time at an early hour yesterday morning. As a matter of fact the man came very nearly losing his life.

At about 5.30 a.m. the coolie gained admittance into the first floor of 65, Wing Lok Street, premises occupied by a shopkeeper. Entrance was effected from an adjoining house, which is occupied. When the visit was paid the shopkeeper was in bed asleep, and the intruder lost no time in starting to work. He collected a quantity of clothing from different parts of the house, which he made into a bundle. As the visitor was preparing to take his departure, he stubbed his toe against a stool, and, in consequence, was unable to cross his limbs, witness said this was his life.

The shopkeeper was instantly aroused by the noise caused by the protruded stool, and, clutching a mat 18 in. long, sprang out of bed, and gave chase. Bill, clutching to the bundle, the coolie attempted to make good his escape. He rushed to the verandah, and, in his hurry to reach the water-gate to lower himself down, beyond his hold, and dropped to the street. The distance was about twenty feet.

This could lay there stunned for a while and finally was picked up by Suyakut Cooper and removed to the Government Civil Hospital. The coolie did not sustain any serious injury, but as could be seen, whether he had suffered internally remains to be seen.

A QUESTION OF IDENTITY.

INTERESTING CASE AT SUPREME COURT.

A very interesting case was tried before Mr. Justice Gomperts in the Supreme Court yesterday morning, the matter to be decided being as to whether a woman named Yuen A Choy was one and the same person as Ho Sze. Miss Yuen denied that she was Mrs. Ho, and some unusual statements followed.

In order to follow the case, it is necessary to briefly outline the alleged facts. Some time ago four women brought actions against the Tak Li Lung firm, and its alleged partners

Lai Chi Chin and Lau Hing Pong. The plaintiffs were successful and judgment was given in their favour, but this was soon reversed when, so it was stated, the claims were discovered to be a gigantic fraud. Then Lai Chi Chin brought claims against the women to recover costs among them being the name Ho Sze. A warrant was issued for her arrest, and this was executed—somebody was arrested, but the woman arrested denies that she is Ho Sze and gives her name as Yuen A Choy.

In the present action, Mr. F. Page Hett (of Messrs. Bruton and Hett), appeared for Lai Chi Chin, Mr. C. F. Dixon (from the office of Messrs. Hastings and Hastings) represented Yuen A Choy.

Mr. Dixon stated that an action was brought against one Ho Sze and a warrant was issued against her. As a matter of fact, he continued, they went and arrested the wrong woman, one Yuen A Choy, who they alleged was one and the same person. The one, continued Mr. Dixon, was on his friend, Mr. Hett, to justify what he had done. He alleged that Yuen A Choy was the same person as Ho Sze. Therefore he could not prove the facts, and the onus was on his friend to do so.

Mr. Hett denied that the onus was upon him. In the first place he was the defendant in this issue, and "Ho Sze" was the plaintiff.

Mr. Justice Gomperts—But she says she is not Ho Sze.

Mr. Hett observed that if the lady was Ho Sze there was no further step to take. They were entitled to their money which was paid into Court, unless some evidence was adduced by the other side.

Mr. Dixon—If he (Mr. Hett) justifies his action he can take the money in Court, but not before.

Mr. Hett—It is quite clear, if Mr. Dixon does not adduce evidence in the negative, we are entitled to our money. The money has been paid into Court, and we don't care if she is the right woman or not (Laughter).

Mr. Justice Gomperts—But suppose there was no money in Court?

Mr. Hett said that if she were a pauper, or were in gaol the onus was still on her to prove that she was not Ho Sze. The warrant was issued by this Court for the arrest of some person. Someone was arrested, and if the warrant was inapplicable for her she should show that she was not the right person, or that the warrant was irregular. Until the plaintiff went into the box, neither she nor her solicitors had any locus standi at all.

Mr. Dixon—This is not an action for false imprisonment. My friend thinks it is.

Mr. Hett stated that it was possible Yuen A Choy had a twin sister (Laughter). It was probable—(Laughter)—he added.

An argument followed between the two solicitors as to who should open his case first. Mr. Dixon argued that his friend should, Mr. Hett arguing otherwise. The judge found against the latter.

Mr. Hett then opened by recalling previous cases. He said that some time ago several actions were brought by Ho Sze against the Tak Li Lung firm, and two men (Lai Hing Pong and Lai Chi Chin) were joined as alleged partners. These actions (three in number) formed about forty other actions against the Tak Li Lung by widows and ladies, who lived in the Tak Li Lung house. Mr. Justice Wise at the time was not satisfied with the matter, but gave judgment against the firm. All the actions were for money lent. To give colour to this story Lai Hing Pong was stated to have engineered this fraud, by handing out promissory notes ad lib. to all the women in the house. The actions by the woman followed and the women succeeded. Lai Chi Chin, who made the defendant, appealed against the decision to the Full Court, and it was proved that the entries in the firm's books were untrue. For instance there was an entry in the book regarding a loan from a certain pawnshop, but when the pawnbroker was interviewed he denied any knowledge of a loan. His books showed, notably: "Then the writer of the Tak Li Lung's books was discovered and he, besides other things, said that forty ladies were engaged in rubbing the books with tobacco ash so as to make them look like old books. (Laughter). A very ingenuous fraud. (Laughter)." Then the action against this woman Ho Sze began, her arrest followed, and her denial that she was that person.

Evidence was then called.

Mrs. Lai Chi Chin, who appeared to be unwell, was called to the box. She was permitted to be seated during her evidence. She stated that she knew Yuen A Choy, having met her at Lai Hing Pong's place nearly four years ago.

Mr. Hett—Where is Lai Hing Pong's place? At 250 Queen's Road West.

Where did this woman (Yuen A Choy) live? At 250, the adjoining house, which communicated with Lai Hing Pong's by a door from the verandah.

Did Yuen A Choy go into the witness box and give evidence?—Yes.

Did she say where she lived at the time?—Yes, at 250.

Did she say what the claim against the Tak Li Lung firm was?—Yes. Three actions for \$3,000.

Did you know her by the name of Ho Sze?—No.

Were you surprised when she got into the witness box and said she was Ho Sze?—Yes. And after the actions you got execution against this woman?—Yes.

Why was not execution levied at once?—Because she had absconded.

The witness then explained that when Yuen A Choy returned, she, her mother and an amanuensis to see her. Witness addressed the woman as Ho Sze, Koo, and the latter asked what was wanted. Witness asked for Lai Hing Pong, and was told that he was not there. Mr. Hill, the bailiff, who was also in the party, asked if plaintiff would pay the money. Plaintiff then denied she was Ho Sze, Koo.

The shopkeeper was instantly aroused by the noise caused by the protruded stool, and, clutching a mat 18 in. long, sprang out of bed, and gave chase. Bill, clutching to the bundle, the coolie attempted to make good his escape. He rushed to the verandah, and, in his hurry to reach the water-gate to lower himself down, beyond his hold, and dropped to the street. The distance was about twenty feet.

This could lay there stunned for a while and finally was picked up by Suyakut Cooper and removed to the Government Civil Hospital. The coolie did not sustain any serious injury, but as could be seen, whether he had suffered internally remains to be seen.

The coolie was then brought before Mr. Justice Gomperts, who, after a short time, adjourned the case to the 21st instant.

Mr. Dixon—Do you remember the faces of all the people you have cross-examined during the last six months?

Mr. Gomperts—I could not say to you now; but is it that during all the time that I have had you cross-examined this woman—she has a distinct face?

What do you mean by a distinct face?—Doubtless it is. She is prettier, she has a pleasant face, but I would not call her beautiful (Laughter).

Her face is compressed (said Lai Chi Chin).

On the 11th instant another mass meeting was held in the Canton Assembly Hall in connection with the question of the delimitation of Macao, when there were present an exceptionally large number of people of all classes. It is to say that considerable discussion took place during the proceedings. The meeting ultimately passed the following resolutions:—All classes of people are to unite themselves in petitioning H.E. Vice-Viceroy Chang, and the Special Envoy, H.E. Ko Yu Him, urging them to maintain, strenuously, and to do their duty for the protection of territorial rights in the Macao boundary question. The Cantonese officials in Peking should be well informed in detail with all the information relating to the question and be requested to render whatever services that may be required in co-operation with the Special Envoy in the negotiations. All efforts now incurred on account of the present question will be defrayed by subscription which will be duly collected.

At the conclusion of the meeting telegrams were sent to Macao, to the South shortly to take up his duties, and to the British Government to advise him of the steps that are to be taken to strengthen the hands of the British authorities at Peking. Of the steps that let up to the signing of the loan, although it is clear that some such compact had been agreed upon, practically, if not officially, since without it the recent conference in Paris would have been purposeless. But speculations on questions of this nature, however interesting in themselves, are beside the main point, on which, as indicated by Reuter, yesterday the intended protest of the British and French groups would be collected.

It is reported that H.E. Ko Yu Him will proceed to the South shortly to take up his duties in connection with the settlement of the question of the delimitation of Macao.

THE DELIMITATION OF MACAO.

MASS MEETING IN CANTON.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, April 11th.

On the 11th instant another mass meeting was held in the Canton Assembly Hall in connection with the question of the delimitation of Macao, when there were present an exceptionally large number of people of all classes. It is to say that considerable discussion took place during the proceedings. The meeting

THE CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY LOAN.

THE MACAO BOUNDARY.

AGITATION IN SHANGHAI.

A very well-attended meeting was held at the Cantonese Guild on the afternoon of the 11th inst., reports the *Shanghai Times*, and the following telegram was exchanged between the Guild and the Macao Boundary Protection Society:

"Boundary Protection Society to Cantonese Guild: H.E. Kao, special Commissioner to delimit Macao Boundary, arrived at Shanghai, urge him to stand firm and not to give away an inch of land." Reply by wire—Yuen-Tao-Sheng.

"The Guild to Mr. Yang-Tao-Sheng: The Macao Boundary question affects China's sovereignty and the people's property. We therefore feel it our duty to help. We are now holding a meeting and will petition Commissioner Kao. Pray inquire into the history of the Portuguese administration of Macao from the beginning, and the present day conditions, and write us fully so that we may decide on the proper measures to take in the matter."

A Portuguese writes to the *H.W. C. D.* News:

"On the question of the delimitation of the Macao Boundary I have noticed various ill-founded statements regarding the Portuguese, doing in their Colony in South China. In particular the removal from Macao by the Governor Ferreira da Amaria of the Chinese Customs house has been qualified as an act of piracy or something akin thereto. But there is another side to this episode in the history of Macao. Portugal having declared Macao a port from such a removal was a corollary to the new order of things, and besides, the constant interference on the part of the Chinese Customs Authorities in the administration of the popular population in Macao necessitated their sacking from the Portuguese Colony. Thus Amaria's action in 1848 was fully justified, and he paid his life for his temerity in making Macao entirely a Portuguese city, being assassinated at the hands of hired ruffians."

Now it is said that the Portuguese Commissioner appointed for the delimitation instead of entering into the question of the disputed boundary, is trying to put forward claims on territories to which Portugal has no right whatever. It would appear that those who say this are under a delusion as to the whole matter.

So far as is known, the Portuguese Commissioner has not yet arrived, and nothing has transpired as to the course the negotiations will take. What is happening is that the Self-Government Society of Canton are doing their best to create trouble between their Government and that of Portugal. After having spread broadcast the news that we were encroaching upon the Chinese territory, the last decision arrived at by this Society calls for:

"The abrogation of the Luso-Chinese Treaty, the retrocession of Macao or, in the alternative, the re-imposition of the annual ground-rent and the recognition of China's sovereignty over the place, and, in the event of Portugal refusing to comply with these demands, to take measures to enforce them."

It is to be hoped that the imperial Government of China will not endorse this decision of the Self-Government Society of Canton, as it will not be the question of the delimitation of Macao Boundary that China will have to view to settle, but the expulsion of the Portuguese from Macao. The case will then look quite serious.

On our part, we may assume with certainty that we shall not put forward claims to which we have no right in the face of International Law, but we shall not depart from the principle that Macao and its dependencies as stipulated in the Treaty of 1887 shall form the basis of the negotiations; that is, Macao and all places in the vicinity which have been in effective occupation by us for centuries or a great number of years, with the territorial waters as defined by the Law of Nations, will be insisted on by the Portuguese Commissioner as "belonging" to Portugal.

It is scarcely to be thought that a place which is so closely associated with the immortal memories of Xavier and Camões, and to which nature has been most beautiful, should be made for years a barracks for the coolie emigration to Pernambuco and the West Indies, and since its decadence up to the present, a foster-mother to gambling houses.

But, without the least wishing to palliate the Portuguese Government's administrative faults in Macao, I may say that the Chinese are also partly responsible for these economical errors. The Coolie Trade could not have flourished if there were no Chinese brokers to bring coolies from the interior and coast of China to the barracks; and the gambling houses would long have been deserted if there were no natives to go to these dens in quest of delusive fortunes.

We have seen the same thing happening with the Indian opium. The importation of this drug into China would not be possible if there was no ready market; therefore, in the empire, it would have ceased to trouble me long before the present movement for the suppression of the opium trade and cessation of the coolie traffic in China was set up.

Macao's iniquity has, indeed, been great. But times change. Portugal has now made up her mind to make of Macao a place for legitimate trade, more in accord with its glorious past. Works will be undertaken to improve her harbour, and through administrative reforms, liberal trading facilities will be granted to the Chinese merchants. The construction of the Macao-Canton railway will be the primary object of the Portuguese Government, as soon as the pending delimitation has been accomplished. No one will profit more by the altered circumstances than the Chinese.

LIMEWASHING HOUSES.

APPLICATION FOR EXEMPTION.

Dr. Wilder Banquetted.

HONORED GUEST OF CHINESE COMMERCIAL COMMUNITY.

A MEMORABLE EVENING.

15th Inst.

That Dr. Amos P. Wilder, the popular U.S. Consul-General in Hongkong, has done more than any of the American officials to cement the bonds of friendship between the Chinese commercial community of Hongkong and the United States, is demonstrated by the cordial feelings manifested at the memorable function at the Chinese Club last night when that Consular official was entertained at a Chinese banquet, on the eve of his departure for home, by the leading compradores of the banking institutions and mercantile firms in Hongkong—both British and foreign—and the representatives of the important *Anglo-Chinese* in business, having large business connections with San Francisco, the California coast, and the United States generally. When Dr. Wilder was first appointed to Hongkong three years ago, the Chinese still entertained a feeling of soreness towards the United States over the Asiatic Exclusion Bill. Thanks to the tactfulness of the new holder of the consular incumbency, among other contributory factors, that sentiment of estrangement has been completely got over, and last night's function beaks a cordiality of feelings which Dr. Wilder will not fail to transmit to President Taft who is personally acquainted with the majority of the hosts of the interesting occasion. Among those present were Dr. A. P. Wilder, U.S. Consul-General, Mr. Stuart Fuller, U.S. Vice-Consul-General, Messrs. Lau Chu-pak (compradore, A. S. Watson Co., Ltd.), Ho Fook (compradore, Jardine, Matheson & Co., Ltd.), Siai Tak-fan (Ewers and Hartson), Ho Kerm-tong, assistant compradore, Jardine, Matheson & Co., Chau Siu-ki (manager, Yuen On and Shiu On, S. S. Co.), Li Ku-yuen (compradore, International Banking Corporation), Lau Poo-chiu (compradore, Hongkong and Shanghai Bank) Yung Hin-pung (compradore, Chartered Bank of India, Australia, and China), Leung Shiu-kong (compradore, Canadian Pacific Railway Co.), Wong Kam-fuk (compradore, Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown, Co., Ltd.), Chau Kee-chee (compradore, China Sugar Refining Co., Ltd.), Ng Hon-izs (compradore, National Bank of China, Ltd.), Chiu U-tin (the veteran merchant of California), Leung Pui-chi, Ng Li-hock, Tam Tsz-kong, and the leading Chinese merchants with traditional connections and branch establishments in America. In all about seventy sat to the banquet.

The hall was tastefully decorated with flowers and bunting for the occasion. Numerous silk embroidered hangings of Chinese design and finish adorned the walls, while the furniture was of typical Chinese design in blackwood. The dragon flag and the Stars and Stripes were displayed in a prominent position.

Mr. Wilder was appropriately accorded the seat of honour to the right of the Chairman (Mr. Lau Chu-pak) on which left sat Vice-Consul General, Fuller. Mr. Siai Tak-fan occupied the seat next to Dr. Wilder, while Mr. Ho Fook was accommodated in one to the left of Mr. Fuller.

Full justice was done to the excellent menu provided, which was served in true Chinese fashion, with the indispensable silver-tipped chopsticks.

Loyal toasts to "The King" and "The President of the United States" having been submitted by Mr. Lau Chu-pak and Mr. Siai Tak-fan, respectively.

Mr. Ho Fook gave the toast to

"THE EMPEROR OF CHINA."

He said:—The next toast on the programme is that of the Emperor of China, and it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to propose it. Instead of wishing His Majesty, in the stereotyped phrase, a long life of 1,000 years, let us hope that China will take her proper place in the political world during his reign.

The party drank the toast standing.

THE GUEST OF THE EVENING.

The Chairman, in proposing the toast in honour of the guest of the evening, said:—Gentlemen, as you are all aware, the occasion which calls us together here this evening is to pay our respects to a gentleman, as he deserves it, to bid him farewell on the eve of his departure for home on a well-earned holiday. That gentleman is no other than the widely popular and highly esteemed Consul-General for the U.S., Dr. Wilder. I am exceedingly glad that, in the midst of his busy preparation, he has been able to find time to favour us with his great company, thus affording us an opportunity of giving vent to our own admiration for his many excellent qualities and to the appreciation of our compatriots of his many kind acts, both in his official capacity as the representative of a powerful nation and in his private capacity as a friend. In customs and habits, it is true, the East differs from the West in a great many ways, but in feelings, I think you will all admit, there is, if not exact, a very close similarity; the Chinese know as well as their Western brothers, who deserves honour and respect and what is to be grateful for. In our distinguished guest, our compatriots who have business connections with his country have not only a fair-minded official to deal with, but also a sympathetic friend, who is ready to assist in any way he can. Who knowing him well has not a good word to say in his praise? During the many years he has spent amongst us he has by his affability, politeness and impartiality, won the goodwill and esteem of all those who have been brought into contact with him. To win the good-will of one's fellow-creatures by purely personal merits is, I should say, as great an achievement in one's life as the acquisition of fame and honour by heroic deeds. Particularly in his own homeland, it is the gathering of the people's good-will that has made many great men greater. Our guest has this capability. As a scholar, he is learned and accomplished; as an official, he is well-informed, just and dignified; as a debater he is eloquent and resourceful and as a private individual, he is kind, honest, and charitable. Fortunately, indeed, in the country, which possesses a servitor of his abilities. It need never fear that in his hands, his interests will suffer either politically or commercially. He is going away from us, now, and may not come back again. We all, of course, sincerely regret that we shall very soon lose sight of his familiar figure moving energetically amongst us, but, when we reflect that his absence from us means real happiness to his own kith and kin, longing to embrace him and possible promotion to a higher sphere in the official circle of his country, for which by his great talents, he is so well qualified, we would rather rejoice in the success which is awaiting him than regret his departure from our midst. Gentlemen, I call upon you all to cordially join me in bidding to him, and the rest of his family, a long and happy life, and, finally, we will bid him "bon voyage" and may he, on arrival, find his spirits all in the best of health and his countrymen with outstretched hands ready to welcome him to a higher seat of honour. (Applause.)

The toast was placed with considerable enthusiasm.

MR. WILDER ON THE CHINESE.

When the applause had subsided, Dr. Wilder congratulated the Chairman on his able speech in English. He humorously remarked that had he to speak in Chinese as Mr. Lau Chu-pak had done in English, he would bring down the birds from the trees to listen to him. Continuing, he said:—It was a pretty thing to see Chinese gentlemen in Hongkong toning the Chinese Emperor. One is apt to forget when we see you mingling with foreigners so much, that your first love is your own country, and that the mention of your Sovereign thrills you as the name of Lincoln or America, or the late good Queen, a son of Albion. We do not fail to note, however, that Mr. Ho Fook invites you to contemplate China, not alone for what she has been, and certainly not wholly for what she is, but for what she may and will become. Mr. Ho Fook has certainly stated with power the aspirations of your people. (Applause.) Dr. Wilder thanked Mr. Lau Chu-pak and his other hosts for the kindness of their farewell dinner on the eve of his departure for home for a season. He said that he had enjoyed rare opportunities for meeting the Chinese of all classes and said he had said before, was enthusiastic over this nation, with reference to their future. He had enjoyed personal relations with many of the Chinese gentlemen of Hongkong, and simply confirmed an old truth that men are much alike wherever one finds them. Courtesy and kindness he had found on every side. He was glad to see that the University scheme was going on; South China is on the eve of large things and certainly a modern university at this key port was one of the things to develop. Wealthy Chinese could build no better monument than to put their money into this institution. Continuing, he said:—A man thinks nothing of going up into the cemetery and spending a large sum on a tomb or of building a temple; here they would be contributing toward an undying influence among their people, and their names would be gratefully remembered to a late generation. Education is not everything but it is an open door to everything, whether in the way of material prosperity or of heart and mind culture. Chang Chih Tung understands this and never loses an opportunity to say that to learn is China's only hope. A university graduating Chinese of the finest culture would make them influential in Hongkong and in the government; Canton not only has officials trained Hongkong, but that capital increasingly reflects the influence of the honesty, promptness, and efficiency of British methods. (Loud applause.)

At the conclusion of his speech, which was closely followed with absorbing interest by the entire party, Dr. Wilder sent to his office for an autograph photo of President Taft, which he asked the chairman of the Chinese Club to accept for its members.

THE CLUB'S ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Mr. Siai Tak-fan, on behalf of his Chinese friends, in a few well-chosen words, thanked Dr. Wilder for his gift of President Taft's autograph photo. In doing so he stated that most of the gentlemen present had had the honour of meeting the President during his short sojourn in the Colony en route to the Philippines. It gave them much pleasure in being the possessors of such a present. (Applause.)

TRIBUTE TO MR. FULLER.

Mr. Ho Fook proposed the next toast. He said:—In the presence of a born orator like our distinguished guest, I am at a loss as to what to say. In fact, I find myself in the same position as a fish out of water. However, since the pleasant duty has devolved upon me to propose the next toast, I am bound to say a few words, even at the risk of making a laughing stock of myself. We have all listened with great interest to Dr. Wilder's eloquent speech, and it is gratifying to learn that he agrees with Confucius that all within the four seas are or should be brethren. At the last conference at The Hague, China was ranked in essence and admirable at many points in its governmental methods, but in efficiency, economy, promptness, usefulness of administration have yet to be learned. Order is heaven's first law, and from the fact that returning Chinese often do not dare to return to their villages without protection, forces one to think that in the interior the citizen is not properly safeguarded. While the Chinese citizen will not endure extortion from his officials beyond a certain point, he must or should demand that there be no extortion. Chinese officials should be paid a fair salary and every one who has business at a yamen should pay the fee posted up and always pay the same. As it is, a Chinese citizen dreads to have business at a yamen. We all know that it is unjust to await all Chinese officials, as many of them are just men; it is the system that is at fault. But as in the conduct of a railroad, there must first be a road bed and rails, so in government there must be order set up and openness, promptness, and honesty in administration. It is gratifying that the new government at Peking is quietly installed. Some have expressed wonder that in view of the defects in the present government of China, foreign nations do not take sides with the revolutionists. They forget that some government is better than none, and that the uncertainties of upheaval are too great to invite the sympathy of foreigners. This is especially so in China where the people accept whatever government they find, provided it is not too harsh with them. China teaches the world a number of things; its appeal to reason and concord rather than to arms in time of quarrel is most impressive. During my three years in Hongkong I have seen but one fight in the streets, which was a mere transitory matter of hair pulling. The Chinese people are full of capacity. Some have expressed wonder that more of them have not excelled in science, medicine, etc., whereas the Japanese have some men of world prominence. I believe the explanation lies in the fact that they have not yet been given opportunity. As I have said, China has not yet an universal enthusiasm toward the new learning. The rulers have declared for it and have put up modern school buildings, but unlike the Japanese they have not put themselves in a teachable frame of mind. The Japanese confessed he did know and was willing to learn. I do not know that in the Nanking school, Mr. Siai Tak-fan on judiciary, Mr. Ng Hon-izs on commercial, and Chau Shiu-ki on financial matters. (Applause.) I hope also that our distinguished guests will lend their services on the art of diplomacy. (Applause) for which China has earned a name for her craftsmanship. While we are receiving the honour of Dr. Wilder's presence with us here, this evening, we cannot very well leave his right-hand man in the cold. There is no danger of our doing that within the atmosphere of this room (laughter). I am down for the toast to Mr. Fuller whom I met for the first time when the biggest man of the United States, not only in power, but also in size, passed through Hongkong on his way to Manila to open the Philippine Assembly, and was entertained by the learned doctor at Teng Tin-lau. From that time I have seen and heard of Mr. Fuller; I have no hesitation in coming to the conclusion that he is a gentleman in the fullest acceptance of the word and is well disposed towards the Chinese. As Dr. Wilder has just informed us, Mr. Fuller had passed his examination as a full Consul with the highest possible number of marks, and I don't think we should allow this opportunity to pass without offering him our hearty congratulations. (Applause.) As a full-fledged official, in taking over charge of the Consulate-General for the United States, Mr. Fuller will not be the round man in the square hole. He will be the right man in the right place. Mr. Fuller's acquaintance with us is inaugurated under the happiest auspices, and in asking you to drink to his health, I ask you also to pledge towards that mutual cooperation which will be of reciprocal advantage to the country he so honourably represents, and the great empire of China with which America preserves such perfect and cordial amity. (Applause.)

LATENT CAPACITY OF THE CHINESE.

Mr. Stuart Fuller, U.S. Vice-Consul-General, in responding, said:—In the presence of such eloquent speakers as we have already listened to, I must say that I feel a little frightened as did the man who was asked to respond to a toast at a dinner given in celebration of the tenth anniversary of the founding of one of our Western cities. He said:—"Mr. Toomstone, and I sail tomorrow. Fifty years ago to-day the place where we are now was 'a howling wilderness'." As I said before, the place where we are now was "a howling wilderness"; but this is ambition rather than suspicion and fear. The early railroads and some other projects were constructed by foreigners exclusively and have proved successful. The Chinese have jumped to the conclusion that they can do the same themselves, and they have their mistake at some expense. China is indeed going forward; I am sure the speaker is the correct to say that the physical

strength and the consequences afterwards, I am young and strong." It is certainly a great pleasure and I feel it is a high compliment to receive at your hands the attention and interest just expressed by our friend Mr. Ho Fook, and I can assure you that such expressions, forming as they do an encouragement to one trying to do his duty are appreciated. Your words of encouragement come at a most opportune time. I shall need help and con-

sideration. I am not, as yet, too old, even to attempt to carry on the work that my chief has so tactfully and ably conducted for the past three years. As Mr. Wilder has said, we have not been long among the Chinese, but even our short stay here has impressed upon us the vast latent capacity of the Chinese people. We have learned to respect them more as we know them better. Their spirit of democracy appeals to us. We have learned to know their keen business capacity and their high standards of commercial honesty. Gentlemen, I can only assure you that I shall make every endeavour in my power to continue the pleasant relations that Mr. Wilder has so ably maintained, and endeavor is every way to merit the approval of the residents of the Colony. I look to you, my friends among the Chinese community, for that co-operation and help which a

trader needs to make his business a success.

A flashing photo of the group was taken by Mr. Fong, photographer, at the conclusion of the dinner.

THE MENU.

The menu was printed in English and Chinese, the lettering being "bronzed." The menu was as follows:

Farewell Dinner

10 Amos P. Wilder, Ph.D., American Consul-General.

Given by the President of the United States, Wednesday, 16th April, 1909.

80a Tung, 1st Year, Inter. and Moon, 4th Day, Chinese Club, Hongkong.

Toasts:

The King: Mr. Lau Chu-pak (Chairman) The President of the United States:

Mr. Siai Tak-fan: The Emperor of China: Mr. Ho Fook.

Our Guest: Mr. H. C. Wilder, The Chairman

Menu:

Blind's Nest Soup

Shark's Fin

Chicken Rolls

Asparagus

Beefs

Pigeon's Eggs

Capon and Ham

Snow Pungus

Marinon

Rice

Sweets

Desserts

Tea

The Master was mild and dignified; majestic and yet

so fierce, powerful and yet...

To Tse-tchang who asked: What must the official be who may be said to be distinguished?

The Master replied: The man of distinction is bold, straightforward, and loves righteousness.

CANTON-HANKOW RAILWAY.

COLLECTION OF FARES.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Canton, 14th April.

For the 1st ten days of this month, the amounts collected in fares by the Canton-Hankow Railway were as follows:

1st day	... 4,338
2nd	... 3,618
3rd	... 3,443
4th	... 3,318
5th	... 3,240
6th	... 3,866
7th	... 3,584
8th	... 3,460
9th	... 3,353
10th	... 3,305

Total ... \$35,526

The amount in fares realised during the same period was \$7,307.45, including \$974.89 freight on goods carried by the railway.

WATER RETURN.

Level and storage of water in reservoirs on the 1st April.

CITY AND HILL DISTRICT WATER WORKS.

LEVEL.

1908	47' 5" below	46' 1" below
Tytam	25' 5" below	overflow
Byewash	25' 5" below	25' 1" below
Tytam	2' 2" below	9' 6" below
Intermediate	overflow	overflow
Pokfulum	27' 5" below	19' 4" below
Wong-nai	42' 1" below	31' 9" below
Chung	overflow	overflow

STORAGE GALLONS.

1908	1909
Tytam	97,000,000 102,620,000

15th April.

DELIMITATION OF MACAO.

The Society for the Protection of Boundary Rights in Canton has been in receipt of a telegram from the people of Wuchow, in which they expressed their will, guess and readiness to render all possible assistance to the Society in connection with the delimitation of Macao. In the message they informed the Society that they have appointed Wong Pak Ho to be their representative.

Another mass meeting has been arranged by the Society for the Protection of Boundary Rights to be held on Sunday next, the 18th instant, in connection with the question of the delimitation of Macao.

CHINA'S SCHOLARS.

In accordance with instructions received from the Imperial Government the Viceroy has issued a proclamation informing those who have received their education in foreign countries and have obtained the degrees of Kn. Yen and Chub Si, now in Kwangtung, to present themselves at an examination to be held in the Capital on the 10th day of the 4th moon.

BANDITS TO BE BEHEADED.

On receipt of a report from Brigadier-General Wong Pu Tsung stationed at Ko Chow, the Viceroy has given instructions that the forty-eight bandits who had surrendered to the Brigadier-General and offered to help the authorities to effect the capture of the other outlaws, should all be beheaded, owing to their failure to fulfil their obligation.

BLACKMAILERS AGAIN.

On the 9th instant, a blackmailing letter supposed to be sent by robbers was delivered to the household of the President of the Ministry of Law, H. E. Tai Hung Si, in Fatshan, of which H. E. Tai is a native. In the letter the robbers demand a sum of \$50,000 with threats to burn the recipients' dwellings, should the money not be forthcoming. The matter has been reported to the local officials with the original letter for their information.

CONTEMPLATED ATTACK BY OUTLAWS.

Urgent telegraphic reports reached Canton yesterday from the officials of Pek Lo to the effect that the local bandits are now contemplating attack on the city and that troops should be sent from Canton without loss of time to the spot to quell the bandits. The Canton authorities are now preparing to send a detachment of troops to Pek Lo to subdue the lawless ones in their refractory plots.

MOTHER GIVES BIRTH TO TRIPLETS.

It is interesting to note that a month ago a woman in Fatshan at Fook Tak Lane gave birth to three sons simultaneously. The triplets are said to be enjoying the best of health. A number of people, especially doctors, who were interested in the unique occurrence, called on the mother to see the newly-born freaks of nature.

TRILLS AND FLOUNCES.

DISPUTE OER LADY'S DRESS ENDED.

The action brought by Yau Lee, the tailor of D'Aguilar Street, against Little Kingsbury, of Wellington Street, to recover \$10.75, the price for the making up of a dress, and the cross-action for \$38.20 for silk alleged to have been sold by the tailor, concluded before Mr. Justice Gompertz, in the Supreme Court, today. During the adjournment it would seem that the parties approached each other with a view to a settlement, which could not be obtained.

When the case was called, the Judge asked whether the parties had been settled.

Little Kingsbury, who has acquired an American twang, replied in the negative. She said that the tailor had called on her and asked for \$10.75. She offered him \$5, which he refused to take. "I asked him to sign the bill," she added, "but he would not. He wanted the money and would not sign the bill. He knows I have money and he wanted to fool me."

The tailor admitted that he had returned the woman the extra piece of silk, but he could not see why he should be taxed with the cost of the material—an extra \$2.20.

The Judge—Can't you see your way to making a reduction in your bill, considering that the dress will not fit?

The tailor carefully avoided the question, and asked: "Ask her to put on the dress in Court, and you will see that it is already worn out."

Miss Kingsbury reiterated that the dress would not fit her properly. The skirt was passable, but, oh, the blouse! "In order to make it proper a new collar was washed and new 'flounces' (if that was the word) put on. Then turning to the neck and mid-looking tailor, whose bump on his forehead, alleged to have been inflicted by the lady, appears to be getting more prominent, Miss Kingsbury demanded: Did you ever see me wear the dress? Have you any witnesses to prove that you have said?

The Judge (to the tailor)—Have you any witness to say that they saw her wear the dress?—Yes.

Who are they?—My folks.

When was the dress delivered?—About ten weeks ago.

The dress could scarcely be worn out by now. Did you see her wear the dress?—Yes. I saw her in the dress at the Magistracy when I prosecuted her for striking me.

Miss Kingsbury—I put it on to try it. Can't I do that?

The Judge—Did you put it on to go to the Magistracy?—No. I took it there with me as evidence.

Did the magistrate express any opinion as to whether the dress fitted or not? (Laughter)

Avoiding the question, Miss Kingsbury, started out to criticise the dress once more, when she was brought up by the Judge with: What kind of a dress did you wear to go up to the Magistracy? The reply was: White.

In conclusion, Mr. Justice Gompertz said that it was not possible for him to decide whether the dress was a proper fit or not. The plaintiff said it was not. He would however give judgment for the plaintiff in the original action for \$10.75, and for the defendant in the cross-action.

HIT WITH A BRICK.

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES AGAINST A CONTRACTOR.

Mr. C. Sequina, a ticket collector in the employ of the "Star" Ferry Company, Limited, has entered an action against Lam Woo, a contractor, for damages, which it is alleged, was due to the negligence of defendant's servants. The claim is for \$1,000 for injuries sustained by the plaintiff, and the case is set down for hearing in a fortnight time, pleading having been ordered to be filed.

Lam Woo has the contract for erecting a building in Pedder Street, and it is stated that one Sunday morning while plaintiff and some lady friends were passing the building a loose brick became dislodged and fell, striking plaintiff on the head.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Baker and Morell) appears for the plaintiff. The defendant is represented by Mr. Atkinson (of Messrs. Davies, Foster and Davies).

PRATAS ISLAND DISPUTE.

STATEMENT BY FORMOSAN GOVERNMENT OFFICIAL.

Japanese papers publish the following as a statement made by a certain official of the Formosan Government in regard to Pratas Island, which is now attracting a great deal of public attention.

The Chinese Government is said to have sent a gunboat to Nishisawa or Pratas Island. Presumably the object of the mission is nothing more than the inspection of the island. Judging from its position, the island should be under the jurisdiction of the Formosan Government. That Government, however, considers that the island does not belong to any country and has not laid claim to it. In consequence the enterprise started on the island by Mr. Nishisawa, who makes Formosa the basis of his operations, has been in no way interfered with. The island in question, which is called Nishisawa Island, was not discovered by Mr. Nishisawa. In 1903 Mr. Minutani Shinroku, who was then in Formosa, undertook to explore the island. After experiencing great difficulties on route—he succeeded in landing thereon, but food fell short, and he was reduced to the verge of starvation before being rescued by a foreign steamer which happened to pass by and brought him to Formosa. Mr. Nishisawa, who was engaged in forwarding business in Formosa and is a man of an adventurous nature, decided to begin the business of gathering phosphates there, and signed a contract to that effect with Mr. Mizutani. He has invested \$400,000 (sic) in gathering phosphates and guano on the island, at one time employing 400 workers. The result has not been satisfactory but he still perseveres in the business. It has been reported that the island was inhabited by the Chinese, but the report is incredible, though it is known that at certain seasons Chinese are in the habit of coming there for fishing purposes. The report emanating from a Chinese source that the Japanese drove away the Chinese inhabitants and occupied the island cannot be credited. That the island is claimed by no country admits of no question."

A JAPANESE REPORT.

According to a member of the crew of the *Fudo Maru*, which has just arrived in Yokohama from Pratas Island, (says the *Japan Advertiser* of April 4) there was only one Chinese sailing-vessel there. There seemed to be nothing unusual. The island is only about one mile in circumference and its height above sea level is some forty feet. It had practically no products. When Mr. Nishisawa the year before last discovered the island, he took a large number of laborers with him to work sulphur deposits there. The number now employed is between 140 and 150. They are mostly natives of the Loochow and Formosa. There are also some Foochow Chinese on the island. According to a vernacular paper published in Foochow, the British and American Governments some years ago proposed the erection by China of a lighthouse on Pratas Island, but although a steamer was dispatched to investigate the locality nothing was ever done in the matter. However, on February 1st of the present year, another vessel was sent to resume investigations, and it was then first discovered that the island was inhabited by Japanese and Formosans.

They had erected military storerooms, shanty, cook-sheds, piers and telegraph-poles. The circumstances were reported to the Chinese Government and a gunboat carrying officials proceeded there on the 18th. Their negotiations with the Japanese, however, were unsuccessful. A British vessel navigating this region some years ago had anchored off the island during a typhoon, and the island was visited by the crew. The number now employed is between 140 and 150. They are mostly natives of the Loochow and Formosa. There are also some Foochow Chinese on the island. According to a vernacular paper published in Foochow, the British and American Governments some years ago proposed the erection by China of a lighthouse on Pratas Island, but although a steamer was dispatched to investigate the locality nothing was ever done in the matter. However, on February 1st of the present year, another vessel was sent to resume investigations, and it was then first discovered that the island was inhabited by Japanese and Formosans.

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seat. Should a naval base, therefore, be established at Simplicibar, the Australian defence policy would immediately become an "offensive-defensive" one, as was recommended by Sir Edward Mutton in his Minutes of Defence of April, 1900.

Under such a policy, immediately upon the creation of a diplomatic strait in Europe in which England and Germany were opposed, the first duty of the Australian Government, acting in conjunction with the Imperial Navy in Australian waters, would be to have in readiness an expeditionary military force to co-operate with the Navy seizing Simplicibar, thus closing the only German base in Australasia that could be utilised for the purpose of aggression against Australia in the event of Britain's naval power being overcome.—*Paul Mall Gazette*.

A CANTON VERSION.

DESPATCHING STORES FROM CHINA.

Paris, 13th March. The Paris edition of the *New York Herald* publishes a telegram from its Canton correspondent stating that it is believed Germany intends to annex an island in the Pacific in order to turn it into a naval base.

This supposition is strengthened by the fact that the Commandant of the German "Squadron" at Canton has shipped on board German steamer a quantity of food supplies, guns, ammunition, and material for the erection of barracks.

The destination of the vessel is unknown. The British authorities have sent the cruiser *Flores* to watch the German vessel.—*Central News*.

MORPHINE SMUGGLING.

THE LATEST DOODLE.

The Chinese chemists who up to a few months ago did a considerable trade in morphine and other opium substitutes until stopped by the Customs people, have, it seems, adopted a new method of late, says a Bangkok paper. They took to getting their morphine put into ordinary but non-leakable envelopes and forwarded to them through the ordinary letter post. This practice appears to have acted very well but the other day an accident happened. The corner of one of the envelopes got broken in Post Office No. 11 and out trickled a little stream of white powder. It was a bit of a mystery so the Postal Officials took it to the Customs, where the stuff was at once recognised as morphine. The envelope was detained and, by-and-by, others arrived, each similar in general style and addressed to chemists in the Talat Noi district. There are three of these altogether two of whom are being prosecuted in the Siamese Court and the third in the British.

COMMERCIAL.

WEEKLY SHARE REPORTS.

Reviewing the share business for the week, Messrs. E. S. Kadoorie & Co. write on the 8th instant:

"To-morrow being Good Friday, we are leaving our circular a day earlier than usual. A fair investment business has been transacted during the week under review and prices for most stocks have been well maintained."

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have weakened slightly to \$1.50, at which rate sales have been effected, but at the close, buyers prevail. In London, a firm feeling exists, and the price has risen to \$1.60 tos.

Morries.—Morries have been dealt in, in small lots, at \$1.60, and there are more buyers. North Chinas are wanted at \$1.20. Unions are weaker and obtainable at \$1.50. There are buyers of Yangtze at \$1.25, but sellers are not forthcoming at the rate.

Fires.—China Fires are offering at \$1.50. Hongkong Fires are stronger with inquiries at \$2.00.

Shipping.—China and Manilas, after sales at \$7, are inquire for at \$8, without inducing sellers. Douglasses are wanted at \$1.50. Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have been sold during the week at \$2.25, \$2.35 and \$2.50, but at the close there are sellers at the latter rates. Indo-Chinas continue to demand at \$1.40 and \$2.00 for the preferred and deferred shares respectively, but with the better prospects of shipping, holders are loath to sell at present. Shell Transports can be placed at the improved rate of \$1.50.

Refineries.—China Sugars have not fluctuated since we write last and are steady at \$1.30. After sales, Luxons are on offer at \$1.70. From latest mail advices from Shanghai, the price reported sold at Tls. 126.

Mining.—Chinese Engineers are still in favour at Tls. 18, in the North. Raubs, after sales at \$8, are obtainable at \$8.

Docks, Wharves, and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharves have shown a further improvement on last week's quotation and have changed hands at \$1.50. Whampoa Docks have been sold at \$1.50. Shanghai Docks are easier with sellers at Tls. 1.50. Hongkong Wharves have strengthened to Tls. 1.60, at which rate they can be had.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—Central Stores are in further demand and have found buyers at \$1.70. Hongkong Hotel has been booked at \$1.50, closing with further inquiries at \$1.60. Hongkong Lands have weakened to \$1.50, at which price business has been done. Humphrey's Estates are on offer at \$1.80, but buyers can be found at a slightly lower rate. Shanghai has changed hands at the improved rate of Tls. 1.10.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons can be secured at \$5. Ewos have further declined, and are on offer at Tls. 1.10. According to latest mail advices from the North, changes in other Northern Mills are as follows:—International Tls. 1.10; Lau Kung Mows Tls. 1.10; 125 buyers. Soy Chees-Tls. 1.00.

Market Closes.—Sales—200 bales of No. 6, 3,815 bales of No. 10, 1,403 bales of No. 12, 300 bales of No. 15, 162, and 2,375 bales of No. 20, in all about 8,100 bales.

Arrivals.—Per steamers *Japan*, *Italia*, *Apia*, *Nansha*, *Kagoshima Maru*, *China* and *Asiatic* of about 8,000 bales.

Unsold Stocks.—About 12,000 bales.

Uncleared Stock.—About 12,000 bales.

Exchange.—We quote today as follows:—India T. T. at Rs. 1.51 per cent. Demand " 1.51. London T. T. " Sh. 1.80/- to 1.85/-.

Shanghai " Tls. 1.74/- to 1.80/-.

Silver " 25/- to 30/- per oz.

16th inst. The market, generally speaking, has remained firm during the week under review, but only a moderate business has been transacted. The principal feature of the week has been the improvement in all shipping shares, especially Indo-Chinas.

Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banks have ruled steady during the week and close with buyers at the improved rate of \$1.60. The London price has risen to \$1.65.

Morries.—Morries are slightly firmer and are wanted at \$1.60. North Chinas are stronger, and reported sold in the North at Tls. 1.50. There are sellers of Unions at \$1.40. According to latest mail advices Yangtze are wanted in the North at \$1.25, but no shares are obtainable under \$1.20.

Fires.—China Fires are again easier and have been sold at \$1.40. Hongkong Fires continue in request at \$1.50, and could possibly be placed at a higher rate.

Shipping.—China and Manilas have experienced a further rise and close with buyers at \$1.50. Sales of Hongkong, Canton and Macao Steamboats have been effected at \$1.50 and are inquire for at \$1.60. Douglasses continue in demand at \$1.50 without inducing sellers. Shell Transports have strengthened to \$1.60 with buyers. Owing to a sudden demand having set in from the North, Indo-Chinas rapidly rose to \$1.70, but only a few shares have been sold.

Refineries.—China Sugars have not fluctuated and are quiet at \$1.30. In the North Perak sugars have hardened and were sold at the improved rate of Tls. 1.32.

Mining.—Chinese Engineers are weaker at Tls. 1.50, at which rate they are obtainable. Kaubs are offering at \$1.

Docks, Wharves, and Godowns.—Kowloon Wharves have been sold at \$1.50 and \$1.60, and more can probably be had at the latter rate. Whampoa Docks have been dealt in at \$1.50. Shanghai Docks are easier at Tls. 1.50 after sales at the rate. Hongkong Wharves are in demand at the slightly reduced rate of Tls. 1.60.

Lands, Hotels and Buildings.—There are buyers of Anglo-French Lands in the North at Tls. 1.50 and Central Stores at \$1.50. Hongkong Hotels can be placed at \$1.50. Hongkong Lands have eased down to \$1.50, at which rate sales have been effected. Humphrey's Estates, obtainable at \$1.50. Shanghai Lands have changed hands at Tls. 1.50.

Cotton Mills.—Hongkong Cottons are again on offer at \$5. Ewos have declined to Tls. 1.10.

According to latest mail advices from Shanghai just to hand, mail from other Northern Mills are as follows:—International Tls. 1.10; Lau Kung Mows Tls. 1.10; 125 buyers. Soy Chees-Tls. 1.00.

Miscellaneous.—China-Borneos have again been dealt in at \$1.30 and there are more buyers at the rate. Green Island Cements have again found buyers at \$1.50. Hongkong Electric have been sold at \$1.50, closing with more inquiries at the latter rate. Watsons have been sold at \$1.50, while William Powells have further inquiries at \$1.50. In the North, Sumatras have suffered a severe decline with sellers at Tls. 1.50, while Langkats have taken a sudden jump to Tls. 1.60.

Forward Settlements.—The following dates have been fixed by the Stockbrokers' Association of Hongkong for Forward Settlements:—

April Settlement 29th April. May " 31st May. June " 29th June. July " 30th July. August " 30th August. September " 29th September.

YARN MARKET.

In their report dated 16th instant, Messrs. Phiroza B. Petit & Co. write:—

"Our last circular was dated the 2nd inst."

The reassuring prospects of the yarn market, alluded to in the last report, have not been falsified by events during the fortnight under review. With the return of native dealers to the Colony from the interior after the absence of their customary rites at the ancestral tombs, inquiries have flowed in in a steady stream, running principally on the most fancied spinneys of Nos. 10 and 12. With a continuance of demand the yarn market has ruled strong throughout the past fortnight and prices have moved upwards from one to three dollars per bale.

Besides purchases for immediate requirements, which have gone to the consuming districts, thus assisting in further reducing the steadily diminishing small stock, it is satisfactory to note that a large number of settlements have been effected on the basis of cargo "to arrive." The outlook is bright, and market buoyancy is certain to be maintained with the firmness of importers not to undersell one another.

No. 10.—A good business is reported at an advance \$1 to \$2 per bale.

No. 15.—Steady at quotations.

No. 12, and 14.—A good inquiry. Prices show an advance of \$2 to \$4 per bale.

No. 8.—Stock nil.

No. 6.—Moderate business at an advance of \$1 per bale.

Market closes firm.

Sales—200 bales of No. 6, 3,815 bales of No. 10, 1,403 bales of No. 12, 300 bales of No. 15, 162, and 2,375 bales of No. 20, in all about 8,100 bales.

Arrivals—Per steamers *Japan*, *Italia*, *Apia*, *Nansha*, *Kagoshima Maru*, *China* and *Asiatic* of about 8,000 bales.

Unsold Stocks.—About 12,000 bales.

Uncleared Stock.—About 12,000 bales.

Exchange.—We quote today as follows:—India T. T. at Rs. 1.51 per cent. Demand " 1.51. London T. T. " Sh. 1.80/- to 1.85/-.

Shanghai " Tls. 1.74/- to 1.80/-.

Silver " 25/- to 30/- per oz.

TO-DAY'S EXCHANGE.

Selling.

London—Bank T. T. " 1.81

Do. " demand " 1.81/16

Do. " 4 months' sight " 1.81/16

France—Bank T. T. " 1.81

Do. " demand " 1.81

Germany—Bank T. T. " 1.81

India T. T. " 1.81

Do. " demand " 1.81

London T. T. " 1.81/16

Shanghai—Bank T. T. " 1.81

Japan—Bank T. T. par H. K. \$100 " 1.81

Java—Bank T. T. " 1.81

Buying.

1 month's sight L. C. " 1.81/16

6 months' sight L. C. " 1.81/16

Do. " 1 month's sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 4 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 6 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 12 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 18 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 24 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 30 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 36 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 48 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 60 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 72 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 84 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 96 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 108 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 120 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 132 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 144 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 156 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 168 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 180 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 192 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 204 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 216 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 228 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 240 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 252 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 264 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 276 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 288 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 300 months' sight " 1.81/16

Do. " 312 months' sight " 1.

Ships.

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,

BREMEN.

IMPERIAL GERMAN MAIL LINES.

FOR	STEAMERS	TO SAIL
NAPLES, GENOA, ALGIERS, "GODERI".....		WEDNESDAY,
GIBRALTAR, SOUTHAMPTON, Capt. B. Wilhelmi.....		21st April.
ANTWERP and HAMBURG.....		
SHANGHAI, NAGASAKI, KOBE, "DERFLINGER".....		About WEDNESDAY,
and YOKOHAMA, Capt. G. Meiners.....		21st April.
MANILA, YAP, NEWGUINEA, "PRINS SIGISMUND".....		THURSDAY,
BRISBANE, SYDNEY and Capt. D. Lewis.....		22nd April, 5 P.M.
MELBOURNE.....		
KUDAT and SANDAKAN, "BORNIC".....		Beginning of May.
Capt. F. Sembil.....		

For further particulars, apply to

NORDDEUTSCHER LLOYD,
MELCHERS & CO.,

GENERAL AGENTS, HONGKONG & CHINA.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

FRENCH MAIL LINES.

FORTNIGHTLY SERVICE TO and FROM EUROPE via SUEZ CANAL.
TO and FROM JAPAN via SHANGHAI.

FOR	STEAMERS	CAPTAINS.	TO SAIL ON
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, OCEANIEN.....	X		26th April, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS.....	ERNEST SIMONS	Girard.....	27th April, at 1 P.M.
SHANGHAI, KOBE, YOKOHAMA, POLYNESIEN.....	Broc.....		10th May, P.M.
MARSEILLES, VIA PORTS.....	TONKIN.....	Charbonnel.....	11th May, at 1 P.M.
Transhipment on the Co.'s Steamers at Singapore for Batavia; at Colombo for Calcutta, Bombay and Australia; at Port Said for the Levant, Constantinople and Black sea.			
Through Tickets to London via Paris from £5.70 up to £11.10, 10 hours' railway from Marseilles to London.			

Interpreters meet passengers at their arrival in Marseilles.

For further particulars, apply to

P. de CHAMPMORIN,
AGENT,
QUEEN'S BUILDINGS.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

MESSAGERIES CANTONAISES.

FRENCH LINE OF STEAMERS BETWEEN HONGKONG, CANTON AND KOUANG-SI.

S.S. "PAUL BEAU", 1,900 tons, 14 knots.
S.S. "CHARLES HARDOUIN", 1,900 tons, 14 knots.The speediest, most luxuriously appointed and punctual steamers on the line.
Departure from Hongkong at 10 P.M. (Saturdays excepted).
Departure from Canton at 5.15 P.M. (Sundays excepted).These superb steamers carrying the French Mail are fitted throughout with Electric Light and Fans and were specially built for this trade. Excellent cuisine.
The Company's Own Wharf near Wing Lok Street and its berth in Canton opposite Shamoon.

For further particulars, please apply to the COMPANY'S OFFICE at Shamoon, Canton, or to their Agents.

BARRETT & CO., Hongkong.

Hongkong, 9th October, 1908.

HONGKONG-MANILA-
ILOILO-CEBU.

Regular Steamship Service between Hongkong and above ports.

Steamship	Tonnage	Captain	For	Sailing Date
S.S. "MANDAL"	1,917.....	Ericksen	MANILA	About 20th April, 1909.
S.S. "RIGEL"	1,750.....	Siever	Do	About 20th April, 1909.

For Freight or Passage, apply to

BARRETT & CO.,

Agents

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909.

Notices.

THE YOKOHAMA DOCK CO., LTD.

NO. 1 DOCK.

Length inside 514 ft. Width of entrance, top 95 ft., bottom 75 ft. Water on blocks, 27.5 ft. Time to pump out, 4 hours.

NO. 2 DOCK.

Length inside, 375 ft. Width of entrance, top 60.5 ft., bottom 45.5 ft. Water on blocks, 26.5 ft. Time to pump out, 3 hours.

THESE DOCKS are conveniently situated in Yokohama harbour and the attention of Captains and Engineers is respectfully called to the advantages offered for Docking and repairing Vessels and Machinery of every description.

The plant and tools are of recent patterns for dealing quickly and cheaply with work and a large stock of material is always at hand, (plates and angles all being tested by Lloyd's surveyors).

Two powerful Twin Screw Tugboats are available for taking Vessels in or out of Dock, and for taking Sailing Vessels in or out of the bay. The floating derrick is capable of lifting 85 tons.

Steam Launches of Steel or Wood, Lighters, Steel Buildings and Roofs, Bridge Work, and all kinds of Machinery are made on the premises.

Tenders will be made up when required and the workmanship and material will be guaranteed.

The cost of Docking, and repair work, will be found to compare favourably with that of any port in the world.

Telephone: Nos. 376, 506, or 681.

Telegrams, "Dock, Yokohama," Codex A. B. C. 4th and 5th Edt.

Liebert, Scotts, A. 1, and Watkins.

Yokohama, May 23rd, 1909.

PENANG.

"THE FATHER OF THE STRAITS."

Penang, the most northern of the Straits Settlements, was the first of the old East India Company's possessions in Malaya, and the great Warren Hastings personally interested himself in its foundation, which event marked a new departure in British policy in these regions. Penang, however, appears to have always been in some degree unfortunate, and one gets the impression that the place has never assumed the importance that its promoters originally intended. Early intentions were good, but fate had a way of intervening to ordain otherwise. It occurs to the visitor that Penang suffers from a grievance, the inheritance of many decades, and there is a feeling of dissatisfaction that other places have acquired the glory which should by right have belonged to Penang, the father of the British Straits Settlements. Penang was born for great things, and was to play no mean part in countering Dutch policy in Malaya, but her younger sister, Singapore, founded 25 years later, soon outdistanced her in commercial and maritime greatness. In the early days Penang the elder entertained doubtful feelings of pity and compassion for Singapore the younger, and considered the latter such a weakly child that she suggested it be given to the Dutch. Penang at the time was overflowing with the pride and dignity of the chief township of this far-off Indian Presidency, and, sad to relate, but a few years had elapsed before Penang had to suffer the humiliation of seeing the seat of Government transferred to Singapore. Penang was ever ready to complain about the advantages and handicaps of the forced connection with India, and it was always a sore point with her that she was made the dumping ground for Indian convicts. Penang looked forward to the day when, free from Indian control, she could work out her own destiny. When some years later this happy day arrived, it was the younger sister who forged ahead and reaped most of the advantages of the increased trade with the F.M.S. Poor Penang has led a life of disappointments, and now the grumblings are directed against the Government at Singapore, which endeavour to beautify and enlarge the Lion City to the neglect of the needs and demands of Penang.

At the present day Penang is thankful for small mercies, and quite recently, when the Governor of the Straits Settlements paid a visit to the town, which is only one day by sea from Singapore, the event was considered a great honour. Both Straits and people welcomed the Governor with a fervour as though they were not often given this privilege, and an onlooker could only suppose that the visits of the Governor to such a far-distant part of his colony were few and far between. The vast amount of business which the Governor performed in the course of a few hours was the subject of favourable comment, and no doubt His Excellency's programme was drawn up on the undisputed fact that a little while in Penang goes a very long way. A short visit to Penang does not impress one favourably, but, at the same time, the town probably has its good points like other places in the East. A resident who has his home and friends there, reserves a warm corner in his heart for Penang; and prefers the town to Singapore, but the impartial observer who has had a few days in either town can only marvel at this preference. Penang may improve on acquaintance, but at first sight, it is a city asleep, and possesses few, if any, of the attractions to be found in Singapore, and the large sea ports of India.

Customs are different. Much greater freedom is allowed in dress. All the white men wear the white coat with comfortable military collar attached, and you see no linen collar and ties. This is much cooler as it obviates the necessity for wearing a shirt; a thin vest is all that is necessary underneath the coat. The topi is the round 'white' Singapore hat. The Canton helmet is sadly out of fashion, and at once denotes the visitor as the quaint Port Said topi attracts attention in Bombay. The planters all wear khaki, and the brown shikari topi, and the commercial men were whites. If you have on a collar and a tie the residents put you down at once as a visitor. Concerning the climate Penang is undoubtedly hot, but, possibly, more trying than Bombay, and perspiration is the order of the day. In the matter of dress Penang goes one better than India in abolishing the stiff collar, but in other respects India pays more attention to the social amenities of life than Penang appears to do. Penang is largely self-centred. It cares little about the outside. A few briefly worded cables keep the residents informed of the passing events of the time, and this apparently meets the case. Penang strikes the visitor as intensely parochial. The problems of empire have lost their significance by the time they reach this island at the mouth of the Straits of Malacca, and Mr. Chamberlain's message "To think Imperially" has passed by its shore unheeded.—Times of India Correspondent.

TO LET.

NOS. 51, 53, & 55, WONG-NEI-CHUNG ROAD.

TO LET.

HONGKONG & KOWLOON LAND & LOAN CO., LTD.

TO LET.

NOS. 51, 53, & 55, WONG-NEI-CHUNG ROAD.

TO LET.

GODOWN NO. 54, DUDDELL STREET.

TO LET.

THE HONGKONG LAND INVESTMENT & AGENCY CO., LTD.

TO LET.

NOS. 51, 53, & 55, WONG-NEI-CHUNG ROAD.

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TO LET.

NOS. 51, 53, & 55, WONG-NEI-CHUNG ROAD.

Intimation.

Powell's

28, Queen's Road.

NEW GOODS
FOR
GENTLEMEN'S
WEAR

Fine Quality

Zephyr

Shirts

Exclusive Designs

Thin
Cashmere
and
Lisle Thread
Socksin
PLAIN COLOURS
and
SMART STRIPESINDIA GAUZE
and
CELLULAR
SINGLETSPITH,
GORK
and
RUBBER
HELMETS

Moderate Prices

Gentlemen's
Department.POWELL'S
ALEXANDRA

BUILDINGS,

and

28, Queen's Road.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1909.

Intimations.

HONGKONG JOCKEY CLUB.

NOTICE.

THE HALF-YEARLY MEETING of the above Club will be held on SATURDAY, the 17th April, 1909, at 12.30 P.M. at the Office of the Jockey Club on the ground floor of the Hongkong Club Annex, Chater Road.

By Order,

T. F. HOUGH,

Clark of the Course.

Hongkong, 3rd April, 1909. [339]

HONGKONG GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Members of the HONGKONG CHAMBER OF COMMERCE will be held on SATURDAY, the 23rd April, 1909, at 4 P.M. in the CITY HALL, for the following purposes:—

- To receive the Report and Accounts of the Committee for the year ending 31st December, 1908.
- To elect a New Committee.
- To transact any general business.

By Order,

E. A. M. WILLIAMS,

Secretary.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1909. [343]

NOTICE OF REMOVAL.

WE have this Day REMOVED our OFFICES to No. 14, DES VŒUX ROAD formerly occupied by Messrs. Shaw, Tomes & Co.

ARRATOON V. APCAR & CO.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1909. [337]

Entertainment

COMING! COMING!

THE

HIPPODROME
CIRCUS &
MENAGERIE.

LOCATION:

CAUSEWAY BAY.

WATCH THE DATE

Box Plan

ROBINSON PIANO CO.

A. JACKSON,

Representative.

Hongkong, 5th April, 1909. [322]

Consignees.

BEN-LINK OF STEAMERS.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

S.S. "BENAVON"

FROM ANTWERP, MIDDLESBRO' AND LONDON.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo are hereby informed that all Goods are being landed at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra-hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, whence and/or from the wharves delivery may be obtained.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns, and all Goods remaining undelivered after the 22nd April, 1909, will be subject to rent.

All Claims against the Steamer must be presented to the Undersigned on or before the 29th April, 1909, or they will not be recognized.

All broken, chafed, and damaged Goods are to be left in the Godowns, where they will be examined on the 22nd April, 1909, at 11 A.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

GIBB, LIVINGSTON & CO.,

Agents.

Hongkong, 13th April, 1909. [348]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer

"ASSAYE"

FROM BOMBAY, COLOMBO AND

STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Godowns & Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

This vessel brings on Cargo:—

From London, &c., ex S.S. India.

From Australia, ex S.S. Moldavia.

From Calcutta, ex S.S. Japan.

From Persian Gulf, ex R.I.S.N. and B. & P. S. N. Co.'s Steamers.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 4 P.M.

Goods not cleared by the 1st inst. at 4 P.M. will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Optional Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee's Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All Claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognized.

No Claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, 15th April, 1909. [349]

Consignees.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.
FROM SINGAPORE, PENANG AND CALCUTTA.

THE Steamship

"CATHERINE APCAR," having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods will be delivered from alongside.

Cargo impeding the discharge of the Vessel will be landed at once, at Consignees' risk and expense.

Cargo remaining on board after 4 P.M. of the 17th inst. will be landed at Consignees' risk and expense.

Consignees of Cargo from SINGAPORE and PENANG are requested to take IMMEDIATELY of their Goods from alongside, such Cargo impeding the discharge of the vessel will be landed and stored at Consignees' risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned.

DAVID SASOON & CO., LIMITED,

Agents.

Hongkong, 10th April, 1909. [336]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

THE P. & O. S. N. Co.'s Steamer

"PERA," FROM ANTWERP, LONDON, MALTA, PORT SAID, SUEZ AND STRAITS.

Consignees of Cargo by the above-named vessel are hereby informed that their Goods are being landed and placed at their risk in the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Company's Godowns at Kowloon, where each consignment will be sorted out by mark, and delivery can be obtained as soon as the Goods are landed.

Optional Goods will be landed here unless instructions are given to the contrary before 6 hours.

Goods not cleared by the 15th inst. at 4 P.M. will be subject to rent.

No Fire Insurance will be effected by me in any case whatever.

Damaged Packages must be left in the Godowns for examination by the Consignee's and the Company's representative at an appointed hour.

All claims must be presented within ten days of the steamer's arrival here after which date they cannot be recognized.

No claims will be admitted after the Goods have left the Godowns.

E. A. HEWETT,

Superintendent.

Hongkong, 9th April, 1909. [340]

S.S. "TONKIN."

COMPAGNIE DES MESSAGERIES MARITIMES.

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

CONSIGNEES of Cargo from London ex s.s. "Cordouan" and "Charente," and from Bordeaux ex s.s. "Villa d'Aras," in connection with above Steamer, are hereby informed that their Goods, with the exception of Opium, Treasure and Valuables, are being landed and stored at their risk into the hazardous and/or extra-hazardous Godowns of the Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown Co., Limited, at Kowloon, whence delivery may be obtained immediately after landing.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded, on unless intimation is received from the Consignee before 11 A.M. TO-DAY, requesting it to be landed here.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by the Undersigned. Goods remaining unclaimed after MONDAY, the 10th April, at Noon, will be subject to rent and landing charges.

All claims must be sent in to me on or before the 16th April, or they will not be recognized.

All damaged packages will be examined on MONDAY, the 10th April, at 3 P.M.

No Fire Insurance has been effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

P. D. CHAM-FIORIN,

Agent.

Hongkong, 12th April, 1909. [341]

NOTICE TO CONSIGNEES.

INDO-CHINA STEAM NAVIGATION COMPANY, LIMITED.

FROM CALCUTTA, PENANG AND SINGAPORE.

THE Company's Steamship

"NA MSANG," having arrived from the above Ports, Consignees of Cargo by her are hereby informed that their Goods will be delivered from alongside.

Cargo, impeding the discharge or remaking on board after 4 P.M., the 17th inst., will be landed at Consignee's risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1909. [342]

FROM EUROPE.

THE H. A. L. Steamship

"SILESIA," Captain van Hoff, having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature by the Undersigned and to take immediate delivery of their goods from alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before 10 A.M.

NA MSANG," having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods will be delivered from alongside.

Cargo, impeding the discharge or remaking on board after 4 P.M., the 17th inst., will be landed at Consignee's risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

JARDINE, MATHESON & CO., LTD.,

General Managers.

Hongkong, 14th April, 1909. [343]

SILESIA."

Captain van Hoff, having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby requested to send in their Bills of Lading for countersignature by the Undersigned and to take immediate delivery of their goods from alongside.

Optional Cargo will be forwarded unless notice to the contrary be given before 10 A.M.

NA MSANG," having arrived, Consignees of Cargo are hereby informed that their Goods will be delivered from alongside.

Cargo, impeding the discharge or remaking on board after 4 P.M., the 17th inst., will be landed at Consignee's risk and expense.

No Fire Insurance will be effected.

Bills of Lading will be countersigned by

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Hongkong, 14th April, 1909. [345]

WESTERN LEARNING FOR CHINA.

We have already noted the appeal of the China Emergency Committee for a sum of £10,000 for medical training and other educational work in China. Sir Robert Hart, Bart, is Chairman of the Committee, and in the appeal it is

Intimation.

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED.

ESTABLISHED A.D. 1841.

CHEMISTS
BY APPOINTMENT TO HIS EXCELLENCY THE
GOVERNOR AND HOUSEHOLD.

Watson's
HYGIENOL,
AND
BUBONIC PLAGUE!

It has been proved by repeated experiments that "WATSON'S HYGIENOL" is the most potent agent for the destruction of fleas, especially rat fleas.

It has now been proved that Plague is conveyed to human beings by means of fleas from rats which have died of this disease.

All risk of infection can be avoided by washing the floors, etc., or sprinkling where the fleas are likely to be with a dilute solution of "WATSON'S HYGIENOL." A teaspoonful to a pint of water, or a teaspoonful to three gallons, makes a solution of the strength required for this purpose.

HYGIENOL IS A POWERFUL
DISINFECTANT AND
GERMICIDE

Price per Pint.....50 cents
" " Gallon.....\$2.00

A. S. WATSON & CO.,
LIMITED,
HONGKONG DISPENSARY
AND
KOWLOON DISPENSARY.

Hongkong, 17th March, 1909.

[28]

NOTICE.
All communications intended for publication in "THE HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" should be addressed to The Editor, 1, Ho Ho Road, and should be accompanied by the Writer's Name and Address.

Ordinary business communications should be addressed to The Manager.

The Editor will not undertake to be responsible for any rejected MS., nor to return any contribution.

SUBSCRIPTION RATE (IN ADVANCE).
DAILY—100 per annum.
WEEKLY—415 per annum.

The rates per quarter and per annum, proportional Subscriptions for any period less than one month will be charged as for a full month.

The daily news is delivered free when the address is accessible to messenger. Postholders can have their news delivered at their residence without any extra charge. One copy sent by post at additional \$1.00 per quarter is charged for postage.

The postage on the weekly issue to any part of the world is 50 cents per quarter.

Single Copies, Daily, ten cents. Weekly, twenty-five cents (for each copy).

BIRTH.

On February 15, 1909, at Château du Mont D'Or, Caux, Dordogne France, the wife of Louis Rocher (Commissioner of Customs, retired), of a son—JEAN.

The Hongkong Telegraph

HONGKONG, FRIDAY, APRIL 16, 1909.

CHINA'S CAPABILITIES.

Some writer in the *Shanghai Mercury* has been doing his utmost to maligned the Chinese character and their ability. His trouble is about the "regeneration of a decadent race."

It is astonishing in these circumstances to find that the Powers do not consider China either a backward country or one given to such foolish transactions as distinguish the principality of Bulgaria. The writer in question is most serious when he says—

"The task is the task which China has set herself; the means are Chinese means. Few people have ever stopped to consider the magnitude of the work which China must accomplish before she can attain the object she has at heart and of these few, we very much doubt if there is even one who can claim either Chinese or Manchu descent. The task has been begun and its burden assumed with no clear understanding of the immensity of the labour, the complexity of the scheme, or the world-wide knowledge required for its successful achievement."

"Let there be light" is the native reformer's fiat, but it is altogether another question whether the concluding section of the sentence will read, "and there was light." Of course, it may be taken for granted that the author of such an edification done other than a disappointed

individual—perhaps, we only suggest it as a reminiscence, a missionary. China, we are told, has to tackle two or three subjects, the first of which is law. The *lex non scripta* cited is referred to, but the unwritten law came not from the visitors but from China herself. Even the American codists admit that. As the writer says on this point: "In calling it unwritten we are following western custom, although of course the term does not apply in one sense, and never has since the introduction of printing, for one of the first things to be committed to the press was a more or less complete selection of legal maxims and treasured judgments. 'Unwritten Law,' however, is strictly that of which no origin can be traced, as opposed to 'Statute Law' of which we know the beginning and the end. Now China has a vast mass of such law, some of it extremely good, and most of it (in theory) admirably suited to Chinese character and requirements. In theory only be remembered, for a very superficial acquaintance with Chinese proverbial lore is sufficient to show that between the excellence of a law and the excellence of its administration, there is a gulf as wide as that between heaven and Hades. It is plain, therefore, that there is a double task before the Chinese in this connection. First they must convert their judges to justice, and secondly they must bring their heterogeneous mass of legal tradition to a modern code, and then collate it with an equally vast mass of western law, for that is what they have set out to do. How many of them have ever put foot within the law library of an up-to-date barrister or solicitor? How many of them know anything at all of the many specialists that there are in connection with western law? And have any of them considered how many Chinese there are fitted for such a task as the compilation of such a code?" The hand of the law—yesterday, and not a few persons have been detained for examination in Tokio and Osaka. One former director and one former member of Parliament have been arrested to-day.

UNDER the new organisation and distribution of the fleet there will be no change in the composition or distribution of the ships of the China Squadron, or, for that matter, in any of the squadrons in the East, thereby confirming what was stated in these notes months ago in the rumours of the contemplated establishing of a battle squadron in Far Eastern waters. Nothing of the kind, may be expected whilst the present Government is in power.

A DISTURBANCE took place in the "Sheung Fa" house, at 18, Belcher's Street, West Point, last night. Three men—a cook and two others—in a fit of jealousy, attacked a clerk named Chan Shau Tsoo, and savagely assaulted him. They then turned upon a District Watchman, who had been sent for to quell the trouble. They were arraigned in the Police Court, to-day, and only one of the defendants was found guilty. He was fined \$5. The others were discharged.

MA HOI LEE, the master of the *Kam Tai Un*, a trading junk, was charged in the Police Court, this morning, as follows:—(1) With failing to go to the Dangerous Goods Anchorage while having a cargo of dynamite on board, (2) failing to hoist the red flag, giving false particulars to Harbour Office prior to his departure from the Colony on the 9th instant, and (4) with being in possession of a revolver without permission. On all the charges the defendant was found guilty. On the first he was ordered to pay a fine of \$5, and on the fourth the revolver was ordered to be forfeited.

A COAL merchant by name Leung Chiu Son, carrying on business at 71, Des Voeux Road, was arrested yesterday on a charge of returning from banishment. Mr. Otto Kong Sing appeared for the defence. In November last Leung was convicted and sentenced to six months' hard labour for embezzlement. On the expiry of his term he was deported for five years. He returned and set up business again a few days ago. The defence put up on this occasion is that Leung is a British subject and cannot be banished. The case was adjourned in order to secure his birth certificate.

ACTING INSPECTOR of Junks Rocha prosecuted the master, Chim Yau, of trading junk No. 884, in the Police Court, to-day, with exporting arms and ammunition from this Colony without the sanction from the authorities. As everybody knows every trading junk is allowed to carry a certain number of arms and ammunition, a list of which is contained in the licence. When No. 884 returned from a trip yesterday, her "armoury" was inspected, with the result that it was discovered that two gingals, two breech 100 lbs, 100 B.L. cartridges, and thirteen pounds of powder were missing. The suspicion arose that the junk master had disposed of the goods to "pirates." As he was unable to give a satisfactory account of the loss, he was arrested. The case was remanded.

AS concerns the revenue of Hongkong and that considerable proportion which is contributed by the Opium Farm, it is seemingly not to be in question of "our morals and other people's money." The practical and statesmanlike memorandum laid before the Legislative Council of Hongkong by the Governor, Sir Frederick Lugard, states that Lord Crewe, the Secretary of State for the Colonies, has undertaken to ask Parliament for a substantial contribution towards making good the loss in the Colony's revenue; in other words, the British taxpayer is to pay for some portion, at least, of the virtue that he asked other people to exercise. Our sympathies are entirely with the Chinese in their crusade, and we shall go one place in the recent battle practice, particularly at the margin of opinion was not a wide one. However, the squadron can consider itself secure in its share of the main consequences thereof in Hongkong, and the Straits Settlements, as Dr. C. D. Scott.

A COLLAPSE took place in Wyndham Street this afternoon. The framing of one of the verandahs, which, no doubt, had suffered from the effects of white ant, suddenly came down. Fortunately no one was hurt.

DECRESSES will be introduced in the course of next term at Oxford for the purpose of providing that no person shall be eligible for the Davis Scholarship in Chinese whose vernacular language is Chinese or Japanese.

The China Squadron had hard times in losing first place in the recent battle practice, particularly as the margin of opinion was not a wide one. However, the squadron can consider itself secure in its share of the main consequences thereof in Hongkong, and the Straits Settlements, as Dr. C. D. Scott.

An explosion took place on the 10th inst. in a private magazine in Osaka. The neighbouring houses were demolished, and a fire broke out. Thirty persons were killed and seventy were injured.

THE Japanese Minister in Peking has communicated with the Waiwupu complaining of the violent attitude of the Chinese press in Canton on the Pratas Island question, which excites the people against Japan, and he requests the Chinese Government to forbid them from continuing this agitation.

THE new building in Bishopsgate-street for the head offices of the Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China, erected on the site of the old Crosby Hall, has been completed by the contractors within the time allowed, and is now ready for occupation. The removal into the new premises took place on 27th ult., and business commenced to be transacted from the 28th ult.

A special meeting of the Geographical Society in Berlin on 27th ult., the Emperor and Empress being present. Dr. Sven Hedin read a paper concerning his last journey through Tibet. The traveller was presented with the Humboldt medal. Their Majesties subsequently received him in their private box, where the Emperor bestowed the Grand Gold Medal for Science on him.

A CHARGE of uttering a forged five dollar banknote was preferred against a coolie named Ko Tsung, in the Police Court, this afternoon. The defendant, it would appear, attempted to palm off the bill to a certain firm in the Colony. Mons. P. Dulac, cashier of the Banque de l'Indo-Chine, pronounced the bill a forgery, because of the absence of the watermark. The case was remanded.

A TOKIO despatch, of 12th inst., says:—In pursuance of the proceedings that have been taken in the matter of the alleged irregularities in connection with the Japan Sugar Company, extensive domiciliary searches were made yesterday, and not a few persons have been detained for examination in Tokio and Osaka. One former director and one former member of Parliament have been arrested to-day.

HIS Excellency then replied as follows to the gathering:—Ladies and Gentlemen, I have very great pleasure in opening this pavilion, and I wish success to the Civil Service Club. I hope you will witness from this charming pavilion many excellent matches, and that the Club will continue to prosper as it has done in the past. I have now very much pleasure in opening the building (cheers).

HIS Excellency then unlocked the door with the silver key with which he was presented, after which, His Excellency asked those present to drink to the success of the Civil Service Club.

The toast having been honoured, Hon. Mr. Chatham thanked His Excellency for proposing success to the Civil Service Club, and asked the gathering to give three cheers for His Excellency, which were lustily accorded, together with a "hurrah."

At the conclusion of the ceremony, games of lawn bowls and tennis were played, at which

CIVIL SERVICE CRICKET CLUB.

NEW PAVILION OPENED.

Yesterday afternoon, a very interesting ceremony was performed by H. B. the Governor, who a handsome pavilion in place of the one which had hitherto done duty for the pavilion of the Civil Service Cricket Club was opened under very suspicious conditions. There was a large gathering of members and friends who came to witness the ceremony. H. B. the Governor, who was accompanied by Capt. P. Mitchell, Taylor, A. D. C., and Capt. Simon, Private Secretary, was met on arrival by Hon. Mr. W. Chatham, President of the Club. Among those present were Hon. Mr. F. M. May (Colonial Secretary), Hon. Dr. Atkinson, Mrs. Chatham, Miss Chatham, Mr. Justice Gomperts and Mrs. Gomperts, Mr. E. D. G. Wolfe, Mr. R. O. Hutchinson, Mr. A. Shelton Hooper, Dr. Clark, Mr. Arrott, Sett, Mr. J. R. Wood, and Mr. Gray Scott.

On approaching the Club-house, which was tastefully decorated for the occasion, His Excellency was presented with a silver key which bore the following words engraved letters:—"Presented to His Excellency Sir Frederick Lugard, K.C.M.O., by the Civil Service Cricket Club, April 15th, 1909."

The President of the Club, addressing the Governor, said:—"Your Excellency, it is my agreeable duty to ask you to open the Civil Service Cricket Club pavilion which has been erected by the members by the money raised among themselves. The fact that they have succeeded in raising the sum to erect such a handsome building proves that they have, very real live interest in their Club, and I hope it may long continue. Your Excellency's presence will stimulate that interest. I would ask your Excellency to open the building."

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FRILLS AND BLOUNCES.

DISPUTE OVER LADY'S DRESS ENDED.

The action brought by Yau Lee, the tailor of D'Aguilar Street, against Lottie Kingsbury, of Wellington Street, to recover \$10.75, the price for the making up of a dress, and the cross-action for \$40.00 for silk alleged to have been sold by the tailor, concluded before Mr. Justice Gomperts, in the Supreme Court, today. During the adjournment it would seem that the parties approached each other with a view to a settlement which could not be obtained.

When the case was called, the Judge asked whether the matter had been settled.

Lottie Kingsbury, who has acquired an American twang, replied in the negative. She said that the tailor had called on her and asked for \$10.75. She offered him \$5, which he refused to take. "I asked him to sign the bill," she added, "but he would not. He wanted the money and would not sign the bill. He knows I have money and he wanted to tool me."

The tailor admitted that he had returned the woman the extra piece of silk, but he could not see why he should be taxed with the cost of the material—an extra \$2.00.

The Judge—Can't you see your

Telegrams.

"HONGKONG TELEGRAPH" SERVICE.

CHINA MERCHANTS S. N. CO.
CONTEMPLATED OFFICIAL CONTROL.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

As soon as Viceroy Yung Shih-chang arrives in Peking, it is proposed by the Ministry of Posts and Communications to arrange for taking over the management of the China Merchants Steam Navigation Co.

WEN TSUNG YAO.

ARRIVAL IN TIBET.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

Wen Tsung-yao (formerly foreign secretary to the Viceroy at Canton, now Junior Amban in Tibet), has reported his arrival in Tibet.

He recommends that H.E. Chiu I-fong, Senior Amban, should be urged to proceed to Lhasa.

SIK LIANG.

ARRIVAL IN PEKING.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

H.E. Sik Liang, Viceroy designate of the Three Eastern Provinces, arrived in Peking yesterday.

PRINCE CHING.

ON SICK LEAVE.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

Prince Ching is on sick leave. His Highness is suffering from pains in the side.

ENGLAND AND SIAM.

THE RECENT TREATY.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

The Waiwupu regards the recently-concluded Treaty between Great Britain and Siam as detrimental to the interests of Chinese residents in Siam and proposes to take measures to improve the interests of Chinese subjects there.

FOREIGNERS IN MONGOLIA.

TRAVELLING PRIVILEGE CURTAILED.

[By courtesy of the "Sheung Po".]

Peking, 14th April.

The Central Government has telegraphed instructions to the Three Eastern Provinces to prevent foreigners from travelling in Mongolia.

Viceroy Hsu Shi-chang has telegraphed, in reply, stating that it would be difficult to comply with the instructions lest the friendly feelings of the Powers might be offended.

CHINA'S NAVAL SCHEMES.

NEW SUGGESTIONS.

In connection with the reorganisation of the Imperial Navy, the Chinese Government has made the following suggestions:

1. That the different Viceroy and Governors be ordered to suggest the best means of raising a special fund by an additional impost.

2. That an increase of land taxes be levied at once for the initial expenses of the navy.

3. That an increase of duty on tobacco, wine, sugar and a house tax be levied for a fund towards the annual expenses.

4. That a subscription fund be started by awarding ranks of nobility to subscribers.

5. That a national loan be raised from among the Chinese residents abroad in the South Pacific Islands.

6. That foreign loans be raised.

7. That the China Merchants Company's be subsidised for transport service in time of war.

8. That vessels be commissioned to protect Chinese interests on the coast, and that the latter should pay a tax towards the Navy. — N. C. D.

CLUB MEMBER SICK.

FAILING TO PAY HIS CONTRIBUTION.

A claim was brought before Mr. Justice Gompertz in the Supreme Court, this morning, by E. A. M. Williams against O. McCullum to recover the sum of \$15, which was due to the St. George's Club.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, appearing for the plaintiff, the liquidator, said that defendant was a member of the club, and under the rules it was compulsory, in the event of the club going into liquidation, for each member to contribute \$15 towards the club's assets. The defendant had not paid his contribution.

Mr. Justice Gompertz—Was he a member when the club went into liquidation?—Yes.

Judgment was entered for plaintiff, in the absence of the defendant.

HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

MR. FIGG'S VISIT TO MANILA.

The Singapore Free Press writes editorially:—A statement of importance was made before the Hongkong Legislative Council at its last meeting with reference to the Observatory, its relations with the Manila Observatory, and its apparatus for recording and predicting weather warnings. Probably only a few of our readers have noted, down below the local weather report, a number of lines of more or less cryptic significance, giving the place of origin of the telegram, the time of its dispatch, with particulars of the barometer, wind, temperature, humidity, sky and rain at the place. Whenever a typhoon comes into the region of the Observatory, a code word is appended giving its approximate position, direction of movement, and any available particulars. These wires come twice or thrice daily from Hongkong and Manila, and are transmitted by the Telegraph Company free of charge, and published for the use of mariners bound eastward from Singapore, and like to meet weather determined by these conditions. Fortunately, the neighbourhood between here and Hongkong is not so very bad for mariners, except in occasional typhoon seasons, but careful mariners keep an eye on the conditions that are shown to prevail at Hongkong and Manila, and apply to them the law of storms. Less careful captains trust to the experienced eye cocked over the weather-bow, and to the barometer carried on board the vessel. If the weather telegrams are of use in only a small circle, yet when one considers that it may mean the salvation of a ship to know what weather she is likely to run into, the care and trouble taken to give the information are justified. In the Straits we are dependent on Hongkong and Manila. Those two stations are intimately connected in meteorological work, and a recent visit paid by the Director of the former to Manila led to the Governor of Hongkong making a long statement, asking for a vote for additional instruments. The nature of the organisation from which we gain advantage is indicated by the following extract from Sir Frederick Lugard's speech:—

The Manila Observatory costs about \$145,000 per annum to maintain, and the staff consists of one director, three assistant directors, a secretary and librarian, and ten native observers, calculators, draughtsmen, and mechanics. There are some forty out-stations in the archipelago connected with headquarters. Some of them report three times a day, some twice a day, in the ordinary observation hours between six a.m. and seven p.m.

Father Algue agreed that the primary object in view for improving the information regarding typhoon warnings, is that there should be as many stations as possible and the creation, if possible, of more stations and the more frequent despatch of observations from existing stations. In this connection he promised to send extra observations from other stations in the Philippines whenever the station at Aparsi should be interrupted, which unfortunately frequently occurs. He also said he would send any information which might be useful in the determination of the position of typhoon centres. Mr. Figg, on his part, promised to send extra observations here whenever they might be required by the Manila Observatory, the Manila Government making a grant for the purpose of docks and workshops.

The gentleman who gave these facts to the Press states that his information on this point was obtained direct from German officials.

Immense wharfage accommodation already exists, and a big block of land has also been set aside where coal can be stored on an enormous scale.

"HIT WITH A BRICK."

CLAIM FOR DAMAGES AGAINST A CONTRACTOR.

Mr. C. Sequira, a ticket collector in the employ of the "Star" Ferry Company, Limited, has entered an action against Lam Woo, a contractor, for damages, which it is alleged was due to the negligence of defendant's servants. The claim is for \$1,000 for injuries sustained by the plaintiff, and the case is set down for hearing in a fortnight's time, pleading having been ordered to be filed.

Lam Woo has the contract for erecting a building in Pedder Street, and it is stated that one Sunday morning while plaintiff and some lady friends were passing the building a loose brick became dislodged and fell, striking plaintiff on the head.

Mr. P. W. Goldring (of Messrs. Goldring, Barlow and Morell) appears for the plaintiff. The defendant is represented by Mr. Atkinson (of Messrs. Deacon, Looker and Deacon).

GERMANY IN THE PACIFIC.

COALING BASE CONTEMPLATED.

ANXIETY IN AUSTRALIA.

Considerable excitement has been roused recently in Australia in regard to the impression that Germany is about to create a naval base at Simpsonbafen, in New Britain (or New Ponmernia), as it has been re-named by the German Government. Australian anxiety is easily explained, because that island is off the north-east coast of New Guinea and within a short distance of the Australian coast.

It is admitted by German Consular representatives in Australia that the transfer of the headquarters of the German Government in the Western Pacific from Herbertshafen to Simpsonbafen has been decided upon. The two places are only a few miles apart, the reason of the change being that Herbertshafen has no harbour, while Simpsonbafen is a fine landlocked port.

At the same time, it is denied that there is a single piece of cannon or anything remotely resembling a fortification in the whole colony, nor is there any intention of establishing a naval base.

On the other hand, an Australian who has been resident in New Britain declared in a newspaper interview, which has been given great prominence in the Australian Press, that Germany does intend to create a naval base at Simpsonbafen. The facts of the case, according to this authority, are these:—

Four years ago the Germans started to establish coaling stations at Simpsonbafen, which is admirably adapted for the purpose, being a landlocked harbour, surrounded by high hills, suitable for fortification, and possessing a narrow entrance that can be easily defended by mines.

Then the North German Lloyd Company erected a wharf far larger than was necessary for their requirements and capable of accommodating the largest warships. The land at the back of the jetty has been reserved by the German Government for the purpose of docks and workshops.

The Manila Observatory costs about \$145,000 per annum to maintain, and the staff consists of one director, three assistant directors, a secretary and librarian, and ten native observers, calculators, draughtsmen, and mechanics.

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The gentleman who gave these facts to the Press states that his information on this point was obtained direct from German officials.

Immense wharfage accommodation already exists, and a big block of land has also been set aside where coal can be stored on an enormous scale.

A CONFIDENT PREDICTION.

"I am confident," this informant concludes in the interview mentioned, "that within a month Simpsonbafen, owing to its peculiar formation, could be fortified and rendered practically impregnable. When we are told that the elaborate plans at Simpsonbafen are not ultimately for the benefit of German warships, it sounds to me like an attempt to hoodwink the people of the world."

Simpsonbafen is not wanted as a naval base to-day, but the time is rapidly approaching when, if Germany wants such a convenience in the Pacific, she will have it exactly where it will best suit her purposes."

The Commonwealth Defence Department has already considered the question. It is recognised that Simpsonbafen could become a serious danger spot in the case of Germany increasing her naval strength to such an extent as to be able to conduct operations in distant seas. Should a naval base, therefore, be established at Simpsonbafen, the Australian defence policy would immediately become an "offensive-defensive" one, as was recommended by Sir Edward Hutton in his Message on Defence of April, 1902.

Under such a policy, immediately upon the creation of a diplomatic strain in Europe in which England and Germany were opposed, the first duty of the Australian Government, acting in conjunction with the Imperial Navy in Australian waters, would be to have in readiness an expeditionary military force to co-operate with the Navy seizing Simpsonbafen, thus closing the only German base in Australia that could be utilised for the purpose of aggression against Australia in the event of Britain's naval power being overcome.—*Palmerston Gazette*.

Mr. Buchanan: The present arrangement for the progressive restriction of the export of opium from India holds good to the end of 1902. The Chinese Government are aware that the extension of the present arrangement will depend on satisfactory evidence being given that the production of opium has been correspondingly reduced in China.

Mr. Rees: May we hope that there will be some evidence besides that of Chinese official assurances?

Mr. Buchanan: We will take care that that point is considered.

Mr. Rees: That foreign loans be raised.

Mr. Buchanan: The China Merchants Company's be subsidised for transport service in time of war.

Mr. Rees: That vessels be commissioned to protect Chinese interests on the coast, and that the latter should pay a tax towards the Navy.—N. C. D.

CLUB MEMBER SICK.

FAILING TO PAY HIS CONTRIBUTION.

A claim was brought before Mr. Justice Gompertz in the Supreme Court, this morning, by E. A. M. Williams against O. McCullum to recover the sum of \$15, which was due to the St. George's Club.

Mr. P. W. Goldring, appearing for the plaintiff, the liquidator, said that defendant was a member of the club, and under the rules it was compulsory, in the event of the club going into liquidation, for each member to contribute \$15 towards the club's assets. The defendant had not paid his contribution.

Mr. Justice Gompertz—Was he a member when the club went into liquidation?—Yes.

Judgment was entered for plaintiff, in the absence of the defendant.

HONGKONG OBSERVATORY.

MR. FIGG'S VISIT TO MANILA.

The Singapore Free Press writes editorially:—A statement of importance was made before the Hongkong Legislative Council at its last meeting with reference to the Observatory, its relations with the Manila Observatory, and its apparatus for recording and predicting weather warnings. Probably only a few of our readers have noted, down below the local weather report, a number of lines of more or less cryptic significance, giving the place of origin of the telegram, the time of its dispatch, with particulars of the barometer, wind, temperature, humidity, sky and rain at the place. Whenever a typhoon comes into the region of the Observatory, a code word is appended giving its approximate position, direction of movement, and any available particulars. These wires come twice or thrice daily from Hongkong and Manila, and are transmitted by the Telegraph Company free of charge, and published for the use of mariners, except in occasional typhoon seasons, but careful mariners keep an eye on the conditions that are shown to prevail at Hongkong and Manila, and apply to them the law of storms. Less careful captains trust to the experienced eye cocked over the weather-bow, and to the barometer carried on board the vessel. If the weather telegrams are of use in only a small circle, yet when one considers that it may mean the salvation of a ship to know what weather she is likely to run into, the care and trouble taken to give the information are justified. In the Straits we are dependent on Hongkong and Manila. Those two stations are intimately connected in meteorological work, and a recent visit paid by the Director of the former to Manila led to the Governor of Hongkong making a long statement, asking for a vote for additional instruments. The nature of the organisation from which we gain advantage is indicated by the following extract from Sir Frederick Lugard's speech:—

The Manila Observatory costs about \$145,000 per annum to maintain, and the staff consists of one director, three assistant directors, a secretary and librarian, and ten native observers, calculators, draughtsmen, and mechanics. There are some forty out-stations in the archipelago connected with headquarters. Some of them report three times a day, some twice a day, in the ordinary observation hours between six a.m. and seven p.m.

Father Algue agreed that the primary object in view for improving the information regarding typhoon warnings, is that there should be as many stations as possible and the creation, if possible, of more stations and the more frequent despatch of observations from existing stations. In this connection he promised to send extra observations from other stations in the Philippines whenever the station at Aparsi should be interrupted, which unfortunately frequently occurs. He also said he would send any information which might be useful in the determination of the position of typhoon centres.

Mr. Figg, on his part, promised to send extra observations here whenever they might be required by the Manila Observatory, the Manila Government making a grant for the purpose of docks and workshops.

The gentleman who gave these facts to the Press states that his information on this point was obtained direct from German officials.

Immense wharfage accommodation already exists, and a big block of land has also been set aside where coal can be stored on an enormous scale.

Fire Insurances.—China Fires are again easier and have been sold at 104. Hongkong Fires continue in request at \$20, and could possibly be placed at a higher rate.

Shipping.—China and Manilas have experienced a further rise and close with buyers at \$105. There are sellers of Unions at \$80. According to latest mail advices Yangtze are wanted in the North at \$225, but no shares are obtainable under \$200.

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"MONTEAGLE"

TUESDAY, MAY 11TH.

ALLAN LINER.....

FRIDAY, MAY 28TH.

"EMPEROR OF INDIA"

SUNDAY, MAY 23RD.

"EMPEROR OF JAPAN"

SUNDAY, JUNE 13TH.

"EMPEROR OF BRITAIN"

FRIDAY, JUNE 18TH.

"MONTEAGLE"

12 noon.

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& MOJI

CHOYSANG* ..TUESDAY, 20th April, Noon.

TIENTSIN VIA SWATOW, TSING* ..CHIPSHING* ..WEDDAY, 21st April, Noon.

TAU, WEIHAIWEI & CHEFOO

HANGSANG* ..THURSDAY, 22nd April, Noon.

LOONGSANG* ..FRIDAY, 23rd April, 4 P.M.

YURN SANG* ..FRIDAY, 23rd April, 4 P.M.

SCAPE, PENANG & CALCUTTA FOOKSANG* ..MONDAY, 26th April, Noon.

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CHINA NAVIGATION CO., LTD.

SAILINGS SUBJECT TO ALTERATION.

STEAMERS. TO SAIL

TIENTSIN

"HUICHOW"

17th April, 4 P.M.

SHANGHAI

"ANHUI"

18th " Daylight.

MANILA

"KUOKIANG"

19th " 4 P.M.

CHEFOO & NEWCHWANG

"TEAN"

20th " 3 P.M.

SWATOW, WEIHAIWEI, TSINGTAU } TIENTSIN }

"KUEICHOOW"

21st " 4 P.M.

AMON MANILA, CEBU & ILCOLO

"BINGKIALG"

22nd " "

SHANGHAI

"CHINHUA"

22nd " "

MANILA

"CHINAN"

25th " Daylight.

SHANGHAI

"TAMING"

27th " 3 P.M.

MANILA, ZAMBOANGA and USUAL

"LUNAN"

29th " 4 P.M.

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Reduced Saloon Fares, single and return, to Manila and Australian Ports.

DIRECT SAILING TO WEST RIVER, Twice Weekly.

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CAVITO

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Hongkong, 14th April, 1909.

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